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Concerning item 6 of the provisional agenda

Report of progress concerning the standardization of geographical names in the German Democratic Republic covering the period since the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1977

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On the occasion of the eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the following report is presented on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names in the German Democratic Republic, covering the period since the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 1977:

1. The GDR as a socialist state has made an active and constructive contribution to the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It has submitted several scientific papers and participated in the working out of the resolutions. The results of the third Conference are considered to be extremely valuable for the solution of the tasks adopted by the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which tasks are in the spirit of the United Nations Charter aimed at a better international understanding and a peaceful cooperation between the member states of the United Nations Organization.

The documents of the third Conference have been thoroughly analysed in the GDR and measures were taken to realize the resolutions. This analysis focussed on:

- the publication of lists of geographical names (resolutions No. 2, 4, 16)
- the spelling of geographical names of extraterritorial regions
- undersea and maritime objects - (resolutions No. 21, 22)
- the spelling of the names of states (resolutions No. 6, 17)
- the reduction of exonyms (resolutions No. 18, 19)
- the application of uniform romanization systems for all systems of non-roman type (resolutions No. 8 - 13, 25)
- the national standardization (resolutions No. 3, 4, 7, 16, 20)

2. An important activity in the period under review was that the general part of the third edition of "Allgemeine Richtlinie für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik" (General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names of the German Democratic Republic) has been generally revised in all parts with regard to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The third edition of these General Directions will be published in 1979.
3. The series of General Directions for the spelling of geographical names of European states has been completed in the period under review by the Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1977) and the Republic of Ireland (1978). The series of these Directions, which have been published since 1967, will be continued. Similar Directions for the spelling of geographical names of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Socialist Republic of Rumania and other states are being prepared.
4. To realize resolutions No. 25, 28 and 29 of the second Conference and resolutions No. 18 and 19 of the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the

lists have been reviewed with a view to reduce the number of exonyms, and especially the regulations concerning the names to be used for topographical objects situated between two or more states and for those situated in third states were improved. These regulations also ensure that there are no longer used in the GDR any geographical names which are historically outdated and that, accordingly, there is no dissemination of any revanchist or neocolonialist thinking or of thoughts which reflect an inhuman attitude.

5. With reference to resolution No.5 of the third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names concerning the plans and meetings of the regional language groups, the GDR has made an active and constructive contribution to the work of the group of the Netherlandish-German languages (meeting in the FRG in December 1978) and was present as an observer at a meeting of the Central Eastern and South Eastern Europe group and the USSR group in the Polish People's Republic in January 1979. Also in the future, the GDR intends to participate in the activities of the regional language groups.

Several contributions concerning particular items of the provisional agenda have been prepared for the eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, which will be dealt with in another section.