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Agenda Item No. 6

Progress Report on the Standardization of Geographical
Names in the German Democratic Republic 1979-1981

(Prepared by the Surveying and Mapping Administration
of the Ministry of the Interior of the German Democratic
Republic for the Dutch-German Speaking Division)

United Nations
Ninth Session of the United Nations
Group of Experts on Geographical Names
New York, 17 - 27 February 1981

Concerning Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda

Report on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names in the German Democratic Republic covering the period since the Eighth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in 1979

Prepared by the Surveying and Mapping Administration of the Ministry of the Interior of the German Democratic Republic

On the occasion of the Ninth 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 Eighth Session of the experts' group in 1979:

1. In the G. D. R., the work on the standardization of geographical names has been continued on the basis of the resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names, particularly the 1977 Conference, and with reference to the documents of the Eighth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. In analyzing the documents and implementing the resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names the main efforts focussed on:
 - the publication of lists of geographical names (Resolutions No. 2, 4, 16);
 - the spelling of the names of states (Resolution No. 17);

- the application of a uniform romanization system for all systems of non-roman type (Resolutions No. 8 - 13, 25);
- the national standardization (Resolution No. 3, 4, 7, 16);
- the spelling of geographical names of features beyond a single sovereignty (Resolution No. 20).

2. In the period under review, the Surveying and Mapping Administration of the Ministry of the Interior published:

- Instruktion für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen in kartographischen Erzeugnissen der DDR, (Instruction on the Spelling of Geographical Names in Cartographical Products of the G. D. R.), 7th revised edition, Berlin 1979;
- Allgemeine Richtlinie für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen in der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, (General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names in the German Democratic Republic), 3rd revised edition, Berlin 1979;
- Allgemeine Richtlinie für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen der Volksrepublik Bulgarien, (General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names of the People's Republic of Bulgaria), 1st edition, Berlin 1979;
- Allgemeine Richtlinie für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen der Sozialistischen Republik Rumänien, (General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names of the Socialist Republic of Romania), 1st edition, Berlin 1980.

These materials are used in all cartographical products published in the G. D. R..

The transcription system for the Bulgarian language (Resolution No. 10) adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1977) has been applied

in "Allgemeine Richtlinie für die Schreibweise geographischer Namen der Volksrepublik Bulgarien" (General Directions for the Spelling of Geographical Names of the People's Republic of Bulgaria).

3. The publication of the series "General Directions of the Spelling of Geographical Names" of single countries will be continued. Such a material is under preparation for:

The Swiss Confederation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Hungarian People's Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Up to now, such directions have been published for the following states:

Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Spanish State, Portuguese Republic, Republic of Iceland, Czechoslovak Socialist Republik, Socialist People's Republic of Albania, Kingdom of Norway, Kingdom of Sweden, Polish People's Republic, smaller states of Europe (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Republic of Malta, Principality of Liechtenstein, Principality of Andorra, Republic of San Marino, Vatican City State, Principality of Monaco), Hellenic Republic, Republic of Finland, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Republic of Ireland.

A systematic actualization of that material will be undertaken during the next years.

4. After completing the work of fixing a uniform spelling of the geographical names of the G. D. R.'s coastal waters, the most important regional geographical names of the G. D. R. have been compiled and entered in a general map of the G. D. R. on a scale of 1 : 175,000.

Regional geographical names are to be understood as: names of landscapes, mountains, mountain chains and lowlands of the national territory of the German Democratic Republic.

The above mentioned general map shows also the boundaries of these regional names.

5. With reference to Resolution No. 5 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names covering the plans and deliberations of the regional language groups, the G. D. R., in the period under review, has made an active contribution to the work of the Netherlandish-German Language Group (Meeting in Enschede, The Netherlands, October 1980).

Furthermore, several contributions concerning particular items of the provisional agenda for the Ninth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names have been prepared and will be dealt with in another section.