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Agenda item 8(e)

International Gazetteers

(submitted by Chairman Working Group on Gazetteers)

Correspondence with a number of countries has illuminated afresh the obstacles in the way of producing a World Gazetteer under the auspices of the United Nations (or any other international body) which will be acceptable to all member countries of the United Nations.

In the majority of instances where a territorial dispute exists each party to the dispute refuses to accept a map or gazetteer which does not show its claim to the exclusion of all others. In certain cases, the very existence of a dispute is rejected by one party or the other. Since the last meeting of UNGEEN a number of nations have refused to allow maps into their territory which do not show the situation reflecting their territorial claim.

In these circumstances the production of an acceptable world gazetteer would appear to be unattainable and experts are, therefore, asked to consider whether final production of a comprehensive gazetteer be deferred until some at least, of the existing territorial disputes are resolved. There is also the question of how to proceed with a world gazetteer in the absence of agreement on romanization systems.