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Report on the Activities of Asia South-West
(other than Arabic) Division

(submitted by Sirri ERINÇ, Turkey)

Since the eighth session of the U.N. Group of Experts there has been practically no co-operative activity within our division. This was an inescapable consequence of political and military events in some of the member countries. As a result of this situation it has been impossible to forward copies of circulars sent by our group chairman and the heads of the divisions to the national experts of adhering countries in accordance with the Modus Operandi. I have, however, regularly received all circulars distributed by group chairman and the chairman of the Romano-Hellenic Division.

As to the achievements in Turkey during the last two years, they may be summarized as follows:

1. A national center for standardization of geographical names has been established a few weeks ago.
2. An "Atlas of Turkey" containing sheets of topographic maps at the scale of 1:500,000 is published by the General Directorate of Surveying. The atlas contains also a gazetteer of standardized place names of the country; and
3. The research team set up under the scientific supervision of Mr. Erinç is continuing its work on the exonyms in Balkan countries and the Aegean area. The study is mainly based on the old map collection of the Geography Department of the Istanbul University, including Turkish and foreign particulars of the 16th and 17th centuries. The main difficulty encountered lies in obtaining new maps of the area with present official place names. It is hoped, however, that our neighbours will be kind enough to help us to overcome this difficulty by providing the research team with up-to-date maps of their respective countries. Such a co-operation for a purely scientific study will be greatly appreciated.