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REPORT OF UKRAINE

Submitted by the National Council of Ukraine on Geographical
Names

Agenda Item 7

Activity of the National Council on geographical names

1. On 23 September 1993 *Decree N 783 "On creation of the National Council on geographical names" by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine was adopted. The Council comprises representatives of the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, Education, Culture, Environment and of the Main Administration of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (**Ukrheodezkartohrafiia**), National Academy of Sciences, representatives of local administrations and of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Head of the Council is Anatolii Bondar, Director General of **Ukrheodezkartohrafiia**. The working body of the National Council is the Department of Cartography and Geographic names standardization of **Ukrheodezkartohrafiia**.

The National Council deals with questions of standardizing geographic names in and outside Ukraine and the place names of the other space bodies.

2. On 7-8 December 1993 an international scientific conference on the subject "Transcription of Ukrainian names (proper names and place names) by foreign languages" was held in **Kyiv**. On the results of this conference thesis of reports and informations were published; a resolution was adopted on the organization of a working group aimed at elaboration of the State Standard of Ukrainian romanization system and of basic principles of Ukrainian geographic names transcription by foreign languages.

3. In 1994 Ukraine initiated and organized the 1st session of Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on geographical names. The session was held on 24-28 October in **Kyiv**. The delegation of Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kyrgyz Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, USA, Turkmenistan, Estonia and Ukraine were present at the session. The states which decided to be permanent members of the Division elected the Chairman of the Division (**Vladimir Boginskij, Russia**) and the Vice-Chairman (**Leonid Krynytskyi, Ukraine**).

4. On 16-20 May 1995 a seminar on toponymics was held in **Kyiv**. It was carried on by the experts from **Ukrheodezkartohrafiia** (members of National Council on geographical names) together with the American experts Rendall Flynn and Herd Quinting. The representatives of Ukraine, Russia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic were present at the seminar.

5. Training of the experts on toponymics was the subject of National Council on geographical names report presented to the session on the Scientific-Methodical Council on geography of Eurasian University Association, which was held in **Kharkiv** on 12-15 September 1995. Thesis of the reports were published.

6. The Ukrainian delegation took part in and held a report at the 1st session of the Baltic Division of UN Expert Group on geographical names which took place on 26-27 October 1995 in Tallinn (Estonia). The participation in this session was of great importance for the Ukrainian specialists not only in respect to the collaboration between the Division, but also as the experience exchange in deciding important problems such as creation of national laws on geographic names and database of geographic names.

7. On 30 October - 3 November 1995 the National Council on geographical names together with experts of **Ukrheodezkartohrafiia** organized in **Kyiv** an All-Ukrainian scientific conference on the subject of "Creation of national database of geographic names". 75 experts on toponymics took part in this conference. Among them there were representatives of foreign countries: Russia, USA, Canada. A decision was adopted at the conference on priority problems concerning national geographic names standardization and their solving.

8. Under the guidance of the National Council on geographic names and the Ministry of Education in Ukraine since January 1995 All-Ukrainian historical-geographical pupils" performed the expedition "Microtoponyms of Ukraine". During the first stage of this expedition 2670 toponyms were collected. Each toponym was registered on a special card and shown on the microtoponyms distribution scheme. The collected microtoponyms will be systematized by the toponymics experts and will be introduced into the information database. Nowadays the microtoponyms are planned to be used in large scale mapping preparation work.

9. A report held on the International scientific conference on 22-23 March 1995 in **Kyiv** on the subject of "Ethno-political and ethno-cultural problems in Ukraine" dealt with problems of geographic names in locations where national minorities live.

10. Ukraine as a permanent member East, Central and South-East Europe Division of UNO Group of Experts on geographical names took part in the 13th session of the Division on 2-4 April 1996 in Budapest.

11. The magazine of **Ukrheodezkartohrafiia** "**Vysnyk heodezii ta kartohrafiï**" ("Geodesy and cartography bulletin") is permanently informing about the activity of the National Council on geographical names. Articles and information are being prepared for the publication by the members of the National Council.

Agenda Item 9

Toponymic Database and Gazetteers

Now in Ukraine the preparatory works are being carried on and a program on creating geographic names database elaborated. In the first stage of information collection it is supposed to use a topographic map of Ukraine at scale 1 : 100 000.

The program of creation national geographic names information database of Ukraine intends firstly to set up a legal and normative base of geographic names standardization. That is why the Cabinet of Ministers decided to charge **Ukrheodezkartohrafiia** with the task to work out a draft of the Law of Ukraine "The Geographic Names" and a series of norms on naming and re-naming the geographic features and to coordinate the Decree on the National Council on geographical names with the documents which are being elaborated.

In 1995 a guide "Africa" was prepared; it is the first of the guide series with geographic names of continents.

In 1996 it is supposed to prepare for publication the following guides: "Adjective forms of geographic names of Ukraine", "Vanished and re-named settlements in Ukraine during the last 50 years", "Australia and Oceania", "Orographic features of Ukraine", geographic names guides of Poland, Belarus, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova.

The guide "Administrative and territorial division of Ukraine" is being constantly update according to the information given by **Verkhovna Rada** (parliament) of Ukraine.

It is necessary to emphasize that the tendency to re-naming geographic features, especially settlements and urban objects is reducing. But there are many unsolved problems left in the normalization of place names and their correct Ukrainian spelling.

Agenda Item 11

Romanization systems

Before the State Standard of Ukraine on transcription rules of Ukrainian alphabet by roman letters (Ukrainian "latynytsia") will be adopted, in the enterprises of Ukrheodezkartohrafiia provisional rulesfunction.

The elaboration of the State Standard draft aroused a vivid discussion on the subject, and many alternative models of "latynytsia" were proposed.

A draft of the Standard was developed in 1995. Main developer is the Institute of Ukrainian language of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The working group consisted of linguists, members of the National Council on geographical names of Ukraine, experts of **Ukrheodezkartohrafiia**. Nowadays the draft of the Standard is on the stage of approbation and confirmation.

Agenda Item 12

Country names

In 1995 *Ukrheodezkartohrafiia* a guide "Names of countries and territories of the world" was prepared for publication. It contains short and full names of the states and dependencies, names of capitals and administrative centers of dependencies. The geographic names are given in Ukrainian, in official language (for the countries which use latin script) or in national roman-script spelling (for the countries with non-roman alphabet).

The experts of the National Council on geographical names in 1994 have taken part in preparing for publication the State Standard of Ukraine "Codes for the representation of names of countries" (ISO 3166 : 1988).

Agenda Item 14

Instructions and guidelines on transcription of geographic names

The standardization of spelling in Ukrainian of the foreign place names is the most complicated problem to solve for the experts of **Ukrheodezkartohrafiia** who deal with the standardization of geographic names. It is by many reasons, one of which are the change in Ukrainian spelling and searches of compromises on the way of Ukrainian language development under the circumstances that two variants of Ukrainian language exist: in Ukraine and in Diaspora. The commission of Ukrainian spelling at its session in May of this year discussed the problem of spelling the names of geographic features on foreign territories.

A series of instructions were compiled in **Ukrgeodezkartohrafiia** on the subject of transcription of place names into Ukrainian: for English-speaking, German-speaking, Spanish-speaking territories, for Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Moldova, France, Sweden, Lithuania, Belarus, Italy. For 1996 the compiling of guidelines is planned on standardization of geographic names placed on cartographic production which is published in Ukrainian and other languages. Is planned the guidelines for spelling the geographic names in languages on our cartographic production will consist of two parts. One part will deal with the Roman script, the other - with the languages using Cyrillic.

The most difficult problems are connected with the transcription on geographic names of the countries using Cyrillic. Till now the cartographers and users of cartographic production concern it a nonsense when the place names of the foreign countries using Cyrillic would be written in their native spelling on Ukrainian cartographic production intended for general and international use. As it is generally known such a principle of spelling place names on cartographic production in the countries with Roman alphabets is being used more than 100 years.

In 1995 were compiled and are being used in the enterprises of **Ukrheodezkartohrafiia** "Provisional rules on the collection and determination of place names on topographic maps and plans".

Agenda Item 15

Exonyms

There is no unified list of exonyms used on the cartographic production published in Ukraine. But every special instruction on transcription of place names (see above) has its own list of exonyms. The names of states and their capitals which are used in Ukrainian maps as exonyms are included in the guide "Names of states and territories of the world".

The Ukrainian exonyms are used also as the names of large geographic features (such as continents, islands, rivers, orographic objects), names of the oceans, seas and submarine objects, some geographic objects on foreign territories along the state borders of Ukraine where the Ukrainian minorities live and documents are available about those place names which historically had national Ukrainian names.

Former English station "Faraday" in Antarctica which belongs now to Ukraine received the name "**Academik Vernadskyi**".

One of many unsolved problems is also the use of Ukrainian exonyms for geographic features on the territory of former USSR, especially Russia and Belarus.

Agenda Item 16

Geographic names on the territories of national minorities compact residing

The problem of geographic names on the territories of national minorities compact residing is to be solved after the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "The Geographic Names". Nowadays the single legal act regulate the use of place names in national minorities languages is the adopted in 1989 Law of Ukraine on language. In the article 38 of this Law is started that the toponyms of Ukraine are formed and given in Ukrainian, but they may be transcribed also into the national languages of residents majority of this location.

Agenda Item 17

Application of the resolutions of UN Group of Experts on geographical names

The National Council on geographic names in its activity follows all the resolutions of UN Group of Experts on geographical names.