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Reports of the Divisions

Report of the
Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD)

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Chairman DGSD

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0. Introduction

The Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) of UNGEEN consists of the following member countries: Austria, Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands, South Africa, Suriname, Switzerland.

On the occasion of the 17th UNGEEN Session a meeting of DGSD was held in New York on 14, 16 and 22 June 1994 under the chairmanship of Dr. Raper (South Africa). Items discussed were: toponymic guidelines, toponymic education and training, Glossary of Toponymic Terminology, publicity and funding, exonyms, data files and gazetteers, streamlining of UNGEEN.

The chairman of DGSD, Dr. Raper, explained that he had recently retired from his position at HRSC in Pretoria but will continue as chairman of UNGEEN and of the Africa South Division. Therefore, he would like to step down as chairman of the DGSD. According to the statutes of the DGSD, the representative from Germany, Dr. Sievers, was unanimously elected as the new chairman.

A) Summary

The Board on Geographical Names (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde = AKO) of the Austrian Cartographic Commission in the Austrian Geographic Society since the seventeenth session of UNGEGN held 4 meetings. The following activities were set by the AKO or its members:

- Alteration of the German name of the Board on Geographical Names from "Abteilung (Division) für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde ..." into "Arbeitsgemeinschaft (Working Community) für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde ..." with the status "In Connection with the Austrian Academy of Sciences". The alteration has become necessary due to the fact that the Austrian Board on Geographical Names entered a loose connection with the Austrian Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Austrian Dialect- and Name Dictionaries.
- The Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying reports large progress of its data base project GEONAM.
- The Austrian Central Statistical Office and the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying are realizing a close cooperation concerning the respective data bases of street names.
- As result of the AKO Working Group on Geographical Onomastics a volume, called "Vorschläge zur Schreibung geographischer Namen in österreichischen Schulatlanten" (Recommendations for the Spelling of Geographical Names in Austrian School Atlases) was published by the end of 1994.
- The AKO installed a Working Group "Ortsnamendatenbanken" (Toponymic Data Bases) with the target of closer cooperation between already existing data bases of official institutions.

B) Full Version

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (AKO) der Österreichischen Kartographischen Kommission in der Österreichischen Geographischen Gesellschaft mit dem Status "In Verbindung mit der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften" (Board on Geographical Names of the Austrian Cartographic Commission in the Austrian Geographic Society with the status "In Connection with the Austrian Academy of Sciences") since the Seventeenth Session of the UNGEGN held 4 meetings (meeting No. 52 to 55 = two per annum).

During these two years the following toponomastical activities were set:

1. Organizational activities:

- 1.1. The German name of the Board on Geographical Names was altered from "Abteilung (Division) für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde ..." into "Arbeitsgemeinschaft (Working Community) für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde ..." (the English translation remains "Board") with the status "In Connection with the Austrian Academy of Sciences". This alteration of the name took place in autumn 1994 due to the fact that the Austrian Board on Geographical Names entered a loose connection with the Austrian Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Austrian Dialect- and Name Dictionaries; the board of trustees of the Institute acts as advisory council of the AKO in scientific affairs. This loose connection with the Austrian Academy of Sciences is an essential improvement of the position of the AKO.

- 1.2. New regulations for the AKO were set by its members with the approval of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Austrian Geographic Society.
- 1.3. A "SYMPOSIUM ÜBER GEOGRAPHISCHE NAMEN" (Symposium on Geographical Names) in Vienna on 10 October 1996 organized by the AKO and the STAGN (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) is in the state of preparation. The topics will cover the wide field of geographical names. The symposium language will be German (with one exception).

2. Technical activities

2.1. Reports of the official authorities

- 2.1.1. The Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying reported large progress of the data base project "GEONAM". This project is part of the change from analogous to digital production of the official Austrian map. It comprises all names of the official Austrian Map 1 : 50.000 (about 120.000) and will finally also include coordinates for the geographic objects specified by the names.
- 2.1.2. Between the Austrian Central Statistical Office and the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying a cooperation concerning the adjustment of the respective data bases of street names is in the state of realization. Its final target are equal house (building) numbers and coordinates for each house (building).
- 2.1.3. The Hydrographical Central Office reported about the publication: "Flächenverzeichnis Draugebiet" (List of rivers, rivulets and of the catchments of the river "Dravo"). The material is digitally stored.

2.2. Institutions of Science and Research

- 2.2.1. Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Institut für Österreichische Dialekt- und Namenlexika (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Austrian Dialect- and Name Dictionaries):
 - "Alld deutsches Namenbuch" (Old-German Name Dictionary); publication of instalment 6 and 7 (Eugendorf - Haslau, Deutsch). It contains the historical data and linguistic interpretation of all Austrian place names noted in the historical sources from its beginnings until the year 1200.
- 2.2.2. Institut für Germanistik der Universität Wien (Institute for German Language of the University of Vienna):
 - "Historisches Ortsnamenbuch von Oberösterreich" (Historical Place Name Book of Upper Austria); publication of volume 3: Die Ortsnamen des Politischen Bezirkes Schärдинг (The Place Names of the Administrative District Schärдинг); compiled by P. Wiesinger and R. Reutner, Vienna 1994.
- 2.2.3. Landesdenkmalamt Bozen and the Provincial Archives of South Tyrol:

"Die Ortsnamen Südtirols und ihre Geschichte" (The Place Names of South Tyrol and their History); publication of volume 2: Die geschichtlich gewachsenen Namen der Täler, Flüsse, Bäche und Seen (The Historical Names of Valleys, Rivers and Lakes), compiled by E. Kühbacher, Bozen 1995.

2.3 Reports about projects initiated by the AKO itself

- 2.3.1. As already reported for the seventeenth session of the UNGEGN the AKO had installed a Working Group on Geographical Onomastics the aim of which was the standardization of the spelling of all geographical names in Austrian teaching materials. Its work resulted in the following publication: Vorschläge zur Schreibung geographischer Namen in österreichischen Schulatlanten, Wiener Schriften zur Geographie und Kartographie, Band 7, herausgegeben von der AKO, Institut für Geographie der Universität Wien, Ordinariat für Geographie und Kartographie, Wien 1994 (Recommendations for

the Spelling of Geographical Names in Austrian School Atlases, Viennese Publications for Geography and Cartography, volume 7, published by the AKO, Institute for Geography of the University of Vienna, Chair for Geography and Cartography, Vienna 1994.

2.3.2 In 1994 the AKO installed a Working Group on Toponymic Data Bases which is chaired by C. Hausner. The group held several meetings up to May 1996; its members visited the most prominent of the already existing toponymic data bases installed at federal and provincial offices. A first memorandum was elaborated which points out the social and economic benefits of a comprising Austrian toponymic data base. The goal of this working group is to establish a closer cooperation between the official institutions in regard to data portability of their specific toponymic data material. The first step is to elaborate a survey with the technical informations of the important data bases installed in federal offices; a second step will deal with the investigation of the possibilities for the instalment of an All Austrian Toponymic Data Base.

2.4 International cooperations

- 2.4.1 Austria continued the cooperation with the other German speaking countries within the STAGN.
- 2.4.2 The cooperation with GENUNG concerning the "List of Country Names" was continued.

II. Belgium
(Prepared by Magda Devos, Gent)

Toponymic Guidelines: Belgium: Dutch-speaking Part (Flanders)

Toponymic guidelines have been prepared for the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium by Prof. Dr. Magda Devos, Vakgroep Nederlandse Taalkunde, Universiteit Gent, Blandijberg 2, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

Belgium has three official languages: Dutch, French and German. The country consists of four different language areas, the boundaries of which were officially laid down by the Language Law of 1962-1963:

a) Unilingual Dutch: Flanders, i.e. the part of Belgium that lies to the north of the Dutch-French language border. It consists of the provinces of West-Flanders, East-Flanders, Antwerp, Limburg and Flemish Brabant.

The adjective corresponding to Flanders is Flemish; the inhabitants are called Flemings.

b) Unilingual French: Wallonia, i.e. the part of Belgium to the south of the language border, comprising the provinces of Hainaut, Namur, Walloon Brabant, Liège and Luxemburg, except for some German-speaking districts on the eastern edge of the latter two.

c) Bilingual French/Dutch: the Brussels Region, which constitutes an enclave in the exclusively Dutch-speaking area of Flemish Brabant. It consists of nineteen municipalities, one of which is Brussels proper.

d) Unilingual German: the so-called East Cantons, i.e. two districts on the eastern edge of Wallonia, bordering on Germany (Eupen and Sankt-Vith).

The Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen (StAGN, permanent committee on geographical names) is an independent scientific organization on the standardization of geographical names of German speaking regions. Experts of Austria, Germany and Switzerland are regular members of StAGN and are meeting twice a year.

Since the 17th Session of UNGEGN StAGN held four working meetings under the chairmanship of Dr. J. Sievers, Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie (IFAG), Richard-Strauss-Allee 11, D-60598 Frankfurt am Main, Phone: +49-69-63 33-313, Fax: +49-69-63 33-441, email: sievers@ifag.de.

During the period under review the following programme items have been treated:

List of country names

A synoptical list of country names in German language is being collated and compiled by StAGN. The list contains those names being used and issued by the Foreign Offices of the Republic of Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Swiss Confederation.

The list is continuously updated and published at irregular intervals. The fourth edition was issued in May 1995. A fifth edition, extended by a list of selected non-independent regions, is in preparation.

Glossary of Toponymic Terminology

A German Glossary of Toponymic Terminology was prepared by StAGN and published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie (IFAG), Frankfurt am Main, in 1995. It is based on the original English version (Version 2.0) of the glossary which was issued by the UNGEGN Working Group on Terminology in 1993 and adopted by UNGEGN at its 17th Session in 1994. It contains 374 English/German entries and 226 German definitions. See also Working Paper Nr. 10 of this 18th UNGEGN Session.

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

The first edition of Toponymic Guidelines Federal Republic of Germany was presented at the 9th Session of UNGEGN held at New York in 1981.

Due to the German unification which took place in 1990, the guidelines were reviewed and a second edition was presented at the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held at New York in 1992.

Work on a third edition was done due to a subsequent administrative reform which has been performed in the five new Länder (federal states) Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Brandenburg, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen and Sachsen.

The third edition of the Toponymic Guidelines shall be submitted to the 7th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Digital databases and gazetteers

Gazetteer Germany

In 1981 the first edition of the Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) was published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie. It comprises of 21 500 geographical names contained on the General Topographic Map at 1:500 000 scale. The data is available in printed and digital form.

After the German reunification this dataset was supplemented by the geographical names of the five new Länder (federal states) Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Brandenburg, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen, Sachsen and the eastern part of Berlin. The supplemented dataset is available in digital form only.

In the past two years the database has been extended by recording some 23 000 additional names as rendered on the general topographic map at 1:250 000 scale. A further extension of the database to 1:200 000 scale topographic maps is in preparation.

Concise Gazetteer Germany

In fulfilling Resolutions II/35 and V/16 of the 2nd and 5th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, work on a Concise Gazetteer Germany is in progress. The gazetteer will comprise populated places of larger than 10 000 inhabitants, other places of cultural or touristic significance, lakes, streams, mountains and regions of major importance. The concise gazetteer will contain an alphabetical list of some 2000 geographical features and a second part which will list the names classified by features classes (populated places, waters, mountains, regions).

List of geographical names of the former Soviet Union

Supported by a research grant, a concise gazetteer is being compiled comprising of geographical names located in the area of the former Soviet Union: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. The gazetteer will contain some 12 000 records and consist of three main parts:

1. An *introduction* listing the alphabets of all concerned scripts (old and new forms), transcription and transliteration keys, references;

2. An *alphabetically ordered list* of all entries. Amongst general geographical information each record will contain: the current original script of a name (as well as old forms of that script), a transliterated romanized form, the current transcription to the Russian cyrillic alphabet, the former Russian name (in cyrillic letters).

3. A *systematic listing* of all names classified by countries and features classes (populated places, administrative units 3rd order (rajony), waters, mountains, regions, nature reserves).

Progress of the work may be delayed due to new romanization rules which have recently been issued by some countries and which have internationally not yet been established.

IV.

The Netherlands

(Prepared by F. Ormeling, Utrecht)

List of Exonyms

Since the Seventeenth Session of UNGEGN, toponymic work in the Netherlands has consisted mainly of the elaboration and production of a list of standardized exonyms in current use in the Dutch language area (with the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium and the Netherlands as its major constituents), in conjunction with resolution no. 28 of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Work on this list has been performed by an ad-hoc commission on foreign geographical names, installed by the Nederlandse Taalunie (Netherlands-Belgian Dutch Language Union) in 1994. This list will be published in Summer 1996, and will be officially recommended for use in administration and education by the Governments of Belgium and the Netherlands.

The List of Exonyms contains, on a country by country basis, standardized Dutch exonyms and their corresponding endonyms, with an index of all names (exonyms and endonyms alike). It has been attempted to render all endonyms from non-Roman writing systems into Roman script according to UN-recommended transformation rules.

As the List of Exonyms was intended primarily for official use, for use in education and in the media, this intention was reflected in the composition of the ad-hoc commission, which, apart from onomastic and cartographic experts was composed of representatives of news agencies and foreign affairs ministries from both Belgium and the Netherlands, and of the interpreter's department of the European Union.

The List of Exonyms, written in the Dutch language, is titled „Buitenlandse Aardrijkskundige Namen in het Nederlands“. It has been published in 1996 as no. 50 in the series „Voorzetter“ (Nederlandse Taalunie, 's-Gravenhage 1996). It can be obtained from SDU Servicecentrum, P.O. Box 20014, 2500 EA Den Haag, the Netherlands, or from Uitgeverij UGA, Stijn Streuvelsstraat 73, 8501 Kortrijk-Heule in Belgium. The list is meant to be updated at regular intervals.

Toponymical Guidelines for Flanders

As no expert from Belgium will be able to attend this 18th UNGEGN session, the expert from the Netherlands would like to draw attention to the production of „Toponymical Guidelines for Belgium: Dutch-speaking part“ in 1995. Within the framework of the said ad-hoc commission of the Nederlandse Taalunie, the toponymic guidelines of the Netherlands (3rd edition distributed at the Seventeenth Session of UNGEGN) were discussed and approved and it was decided to add a counterpart for the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium. These „Toponymical Guidelines for Belgium: Dutch-speaking part“ were produced by Prof. Dr. Magda Devos of Gent University and accepted by the said commission.

As the standard language in Flanders is the same as in the Netherlands (Dutch), part of the Toponymic Guidelines of the Netherlands (TGN) also applies to Flanders. However, in Flanders geographical names are spelled according to the rules of present-day standard Dutch, contrary to the situation in the Netherlands (where many archaic forms are still used). Therefore, orthographic practice in Flanders does not entirely comply with the spelling conventions outlined in TGN. There are some slight deviations in pronunciation, and hyphenation practice is more predictable.

Other matters

In the period 1994 - 1996 there was a marked increase in the number of requests for information regarding standardized exonyms in European languages from firms producing car navigation systems.

* *National names authority*

The National Place Names Committee, South Africa's national geographical names authority, has functioned as an advisory body since its establishment in 1939. After the election in April 1994 of a Government of National Unity, the number of official languages was increased from two to eleven. This development may well have implications for the standardization of geographical names. The orthographic rules for African languages, formerly regulated by language boards for the individual languages, will henceforth be the responsibility of the newly-established Pan South African Language Board.

A memorandum has been submitted to Parliament recommending the establishment of a South African Permanent Geographical Names Commission with powers and responsibilities expanded as recommended by UN resolutions on the standardization of geographical names.

* *Advisory committees*

Two committees were appointed to advise Government, one on the names of State water schemes, and one on the names of international airports. In both cases names were depoliticized; entities named after politicians were renamed; where possible the original name was restored (e.g. Kouga Dam), or the entity was named after the nearest important city or town (Johannesburg International Airport).

* *Education and training*

From 31 July to 11 August 1995, an advanced United Nations training course on geographical names was held in Pretoria. Co-presented by Mr Roger L. Payne, Rapporteur of the UNGEGN and Executive Secretary of the USBGN, the course focussed on the establishment of a national geographical names authority, including field collection and office treatment of names, and computer processing of names. Participants in the course were from Mozambique, Namibia, the Sultanate of Oman, South Africa and Swaziland.

In pursuance of resolutions recommending education and training, the CAUSE Academy has established a Names Research Institute to initiate, stimulate, facilitate and undertake research into geographical names; to publicize and promote the work of the UNGEGN and the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names; to provide education and training on geographical names; to provide guidelines on the standardization of geographical names; and to publish research findings and other documents.

Implementation of UN resolutions

- * In accordance with recommendations of the 17th Session of the UNGEGN, the publication *United Nations Documents on Geographical Names* was prepared. Within two months of its appearance it had been purchased in eighteen countries. Thanks are expressed to the UNGEGN Secretariat, Professor N. Kadmon (Israel), Mr Randall E. Flynn (USA), and the Foreign Names Committee staff of the U.S. Board on Geographical Names, for providing

relevant documentation assistance.

• An article on the UNGEGN was published in *Names Studies: An International Handbook of Onomastics*, Vol. 1 (Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, New York, 1995).

• A *Concise Gazetteer of South Africa* was published (HSRC, Pretoria, 1995).

• A report on the 17th Session of the UNGEGN was published in *Nomina Africana*, journal of the Names Society of Southern Africa, as well as in the Ehrensperger Report of the American Name Society.

• *Criteria for Proposed Names Changes*, a report to the advisory committees of State departments, provincial legislatures, transitional local councils, municipalities, and other authorities concerned with naming, was prepared by Dr L.A. Möller, based on United Nations resolutions and recommendations.

VI.

Switzerland

(Prepared by Ernst Spiess, Zürich)

1. Data Files of Geographical Names

The Federal Office of Topography in Wabern-Berne has continued to establish a detailed database of geographical names. All the names of the 20 sheets of the Topographical Map Series at 1:100,000 scale are contained already in the database, in total some 19,000 names. Furthermore in addition 13,000 other names (all names of administrative units, railway and bus stations, etc.) have been incorporated. The name database consists so far of 32,000 records. Provisional versions of this database have been made available on diskettes. Each record gives the official name, height and national grid coordinates as well as latitude and longitude, a feature code, the numbers of the map sheets in which the name is contained as well as the Community and Canton to which it belongs. Work will continue until all the approximately 250,000 names of the whole series of National Maps are captured. The production of a concise gazetteer is still in discussion. The geophysical version of the National Map at 1:1 Mio., published in 1995, is provided with a name index of all the names on this map. Similarly the 4 sheets at 1:200,000 are provided with an index that covers all names on the map which are within the Swiss territory.

2. National and Regional Geographical Names Authorities

Switzerland as yet has no official national names authority, but 26 regional commissions which are responsible for toponymy in their respective Cantons. Six federal organizations are, however, involved in name standardization.

3. Information on Name Changes

A number of administrative units have changed their names, due to amalgamations of communities in the Cantons Thurgau, Fribourg and Ticino. In 1994 we reported a total number of 8016 communities for the whole country. Mid 1996 this number is down to 2984. Up-to-date information can be obtained from the Federal Office of Statistics in Berne; a new edition of the list of communities is currently in print.

4. A fourth Official Language in Switzerland

On March 10, 1996 the Swiss people accepted a new law, which aims at the preservation of the rreto-roman language, which is spoken by some 40,000 inhabitants. The law states that rreto-roman is a recognized official language for communication with members of the rreto-roman speaking language community. There is, however, no direct influence of this new law on geographical names, because rreto-roman names are official already since many decades, mainly based on a gazetteer (Rätisches Namenbuch) edited by A. Schorta in 1945.

5. List of country names

Lists of country names in German and French have been published by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland in 1996.

6. Addresses in Switzerland

Correspondance concerning toponymic matters may be addressed as follows:

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