

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS

On 5 July, about one month after the Second Conference, your Chairman went to United Nations Headquarters and worked out with Mr. Christopher the tentative agenda for the second choice of dates, since the necessary services would not be available in August, the first choice of the GEGN. The Chairman sent out a circular letter on 1 August using the dates 6-16 March. The official invitations that went out later gave the dates 5-16 March, but some did not correct the dates and will arrive late. The Chairman apologized for not having alerted everyone to that change.

The 1 August circular letter, addressed to 50 experts who provided their addresses as "contacts" during the London meetings, was in part a test of our correspondence channels. It included a request for acknowledgment stating the date of receipt. Those who replied had received the letter in about a week and their replies took about the same time. Some did not reply and it is not known whether they received it.

Immediately on return from London a major government re-organization, relocation of the BGN office and a change in office personnel all contributed to an unusual combination of difficulties. A new Defense Mapping Agency was created that consolidated the Army, Navy and Air Force mapping agencies and the Inter American Geodetic Survey was charged with staff support of the overall and foreign name standardization activity of the inter-departmental Board on Geographic Names (BGN) which continues to share, ^{by law} ~~conjoint~~ responsibility with the Secretary of the Interior. The BGN central office was moved physically in the first week of June and twice since then, and the Chairman's secretary transferred and was replaced by one unfamiliar with the office.

In August the Chairman attended the 22nd International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Canada, and at a session attended by several of the Experts read a paper assessing the London Conference results. At the request of Prof. Draye, this paper was sent to him for use in Onoma, since it was not published in the IGC papers, the London Conference having been held long after the deadline for IGC papers.

Inquiries concerning the United States attitude toward a possible convention or other formal agreement on the subject of extraterrestrial names was initiated but encountered unavoidable delays due to replacement of personnel. It now appears

that there is no objection to pursuing the idea further, but search did not identify a model judged appropriate for our situation.

On 23 January a meeting was held in Washington to clarify the immediate need for names for NASA moon maps concerning which Dr. Menzel had circulated a letter and memorandum to a number of countries and to the convenor of GEGN's working group on Extraterrestrial Names. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Department of State, the Board on Geographic Names, NASA, the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Academy of Sciences staff officer for International Astronomical Union Affairs and Dr. Menzel. Your Chairman reported that at London you asserted your interest in sharing in the process of naming extraterrestrial features and that the subject would be pursued here.

At the meeting it was made clear that only 20-30 names will be needed soon for feature names that can be used as sheet names for maps, that these can be drawn from an existing reservoir of names, and that NASA-IAU Commission 17 relations will be re-examined at Houston at a meeting this week. It appears at this time that naming on Mars offers a particularly opportune subject for our advice.

Having reached mandatory retirement age, your Chairman is now retired as Executive Secretary of BGN and Geographer in the Defense Mapping Agency Headquarters, and has been succeeded by Dr. Richard R. Randall who is attending this session. Your Chairman is now a consultant for the Department of State, and will continue active with GEGN. Mr. Lewis is also retired but will similarly continue with GEGN as a Royal Geographical Society member of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use.