



**UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**UNITED NATIONS  
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

*Newsletter*

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## PREFACE

### Chairman's Report

#### Coordination of toponymic activities in Africa

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) had in 1989, at the 7th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, identified the revitalization and co-ordination of toponymic activities in Africa as an issue of special concern to the ECA. Accordingly, the ECA had elicited the co-operation of the UNGEGN in addressing the issue.

At the 8th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 22-28 February 1993, a session was devoted to the standardization of geographical names. Mr. V. Moskalenko presented reports on the 6th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in August-September 1992, and on the United Nations technical cooperation activities for surveying, mapping, charting and remote sensing.

The Chairman of the UNGEGN helped prepare a background document on the status and problems of the activities on geographical names in Africa, providing proposals for lines of action to the African States. He further briefed the Conference on the UNGEGN and the implementation of United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, pressing the crucial role of national geographical names authorities. The delegate from Sierra Leone has since expressed his country's needs to establish a names authority or standardizing body and has requested the assistance of the UNGEGN in this respect.

#### Training courses in toponymy

The Government of Kenya has repeated its willingness to host a United Nations toponymic training course if funding can be provided. For the necessary steps to be taken, a training course is envisaged for 1995 or 1996.

#### Implementation of United Nations Resolutions

With a view to furthering the work of the UNGEGN and implementation of UN resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, an article on this subject has been submitted for publication in *Proper Name Studies: an International Handbook on General and European Onomastic Sciences*, Walter de Gruyter, Berlin & New York.

### Romanization systems

The political developments in the former USSR have had, and will continue to have, far reaching implications for geographical names. Not only are there many changes in names and/or the status of names, but also transliteration tables for non-Roman scripts are affected. Mindful of relevant United Nations resolutions in this regard, experts in the various countries are urged to submit new or updated tables as soon as possible to the Convenor of the Working Group on Romanization Systems, via the secretariat of the UNGEGN.

### Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

Another call for cooperation concerns the Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors. In view of the negotiations currently under way to have the existing Guidelines published, in pursuance of United Nations resolutions, experts are urged to submit press-ready copies of the Guidelines for their respective countries to the Coordinator for Toponymic Guidelines either via the secretariat or directly. The sooner these Guidelines are received, the sooner can they be published.

I take this opportunity to thank those experts who have submitted reports for the current Newsletter, and to offer all members of the UNGEGN best wishes until next time.

Peter E. Raper

I. NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

[GEGN/16]  
6 April 1993

ENGLISH ONLY

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL  
NAMES ON THE WORK OF ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION

(held at United Nations Headquarters,  
24 August and 4 September 1992)

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1st meeting

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council decision 1988/116 of 25 May 1988, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) held its sixteenth session at United Nations Headquarters on 23 August 1992 and 4 September 1992, one day before and one day after the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

ATTENDANCE

2. The session was attended by participants of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. 1/

3. The Acting Chief of the Physical Infrastructure and Transport Branch, Science, Technology, Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, served as Secretary of the Group.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

4. The Chairman, Mr. Peter E. Raper, opened the session.

5. The Secretary welcomed the Group of Experts and noted the importance of their work.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The agenda was adopted as follows:

First meeting

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Reports of the Working Groups.
4. Organization matters concerning the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
5. Review of the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
6. Other business.

## Second meeting

1. Election of officers.
2. Planning for implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
3. Working groups for future requirements.
4. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
5. Other business.

## REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

7. The Chairman's report (working paper No. 2) summarized activities undertaken since the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts, which had mainly consisted of training, the preparation of toponymic guidelines and programmes with other organizations. A successful training course had been held in Pretoria, South Africa, in accordance with resolution 21 of the Fifth Conference. The two-week course had been attended by trainees of countries in southern Africa.

8. Contact had been established with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which was attempting to stimulate toponymic activities throughout Africa in order to further geographical names standardization. In addition, the Chairman proposed the establishment of a trust fund to make funds available to experts who could not otherwise participate in meetings.

9. A letter had been distributed by the UNGEGN secretariat requesting countries to prepare toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, if they had not already done so. The guidelines were considered by the Chairman to be useful for the standardization of geographical names.

## WORKING GROUP ON DATA FILES AND GAZETTEERS

10. Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) reported that a questionnaire had been devised and distributed, which was designed to determine the status and availability of both analogue and digital data files of geographical names in various countries. He spoke of the success of the two-week toponymic training course held in Indonesia in October 1989, noting in particular the keen enthusiasm of the trainees.

11. Mr. Lewis added that the transfer of technology was not the biggest problem in dealing with geographical names. By far the most difficult cartographic problem was the attainment of geographical names information of high quality. The digital environment added a further layer of complexity to the already complex issue, which was further complicated when mapping was conducted in a multilingual environment and still more complicated when the languages were biscriptual.



12. Ms. Kerfoot (Canada) stressed the importance of the development of geographical names databases in a microprocessing environment. She reported on ad hoc working-group meetings held at the UNGEGN meeting in Geneva in November 1991, in which three principal tasks had been identified: (a) the collection of information on toponymic databases, for which the questionnaire had been drawn up; (b) the wider dissemination of guidelines on relevant toponymic computer courses and the provision of packages designed to help establish computerized toponymic databases; and (c) the inclusion of an element on automated toponymic databases in training courses.

13. Ms. Mattisson (Sweden), who had collated the results of the questionnaire, reported that 33 responses from 27 countries had been received so far but that this was not yet sufficient for meaningful analysis.

#### WORKING GROUP ON EVALUATION

14. Mr. Randall (United States of America) introduced the report of the Group (working paper No. 3) and drew attention to the attached list of international names authorities and organizations.

15. He stated that annex A of the report dealt with the revision of the aims and functions of UNGEGN, with a view to directing the work more actively towards applied toponymy. He further recommended that a mechanism be established to allow active bilateral assistance, particularly with regard to training and technical exchange. Annex B suggested a re-evaluation of the efficiency and validity of the Conference resolutions of the past 25 years. In summary, the Group needed to be more proactive.

16. Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) commented that the primary aim of the Group of Experts should be to standardize names and not necessarily to establish names authorities, which could sometimes have a detrimental effect on names standardization. In the context of the expanding roles of geographic and land information systems, the standardization of names was most important and maps were an excellent vehicle for that purpose.

17. Mr. Ormeling (Netherlands) stated that training should have high priority. He referred to the success of the training course held in Indonesia in 1989. He further indicated that the Government of the Netherlands was still willing to co-sponsor, with the United Nations, a training course for African students in the Netherlands and he expressed his disappointment that the United Nations had been unable to provide funding.

18. The Secretary replied with an explanation of the budgeting structure and procedures of the United Nations. Mr. Kadmon (Israel) pointed out that the training course held in South Africa had been highly successful and that, furthermore, it had been almost totally self-supporting. Ms. Kerfoot (Canada) commented that the course held in Quebec in 1988 had resulted in documents being distributed in French and also translated into English as a training kit, which was available for wide distribution.

#### WORKING GROUP ON ROMANIZATION

19. Mr. Quinting (United States of America) reported that the co-convenor of the Working Group, Mr. Breu (Austria), had retired and had asked him to continue as convenor. The Working Group continued to focus on four systems of romanization - ELOT 743 (Greek), GOST 1983 (Russian), Korean and Thai. Several questions were posed concerning ELOT 743:

(a) Had the new official gazetteer of Greece, using the ELOT system, been published?

(b) Had maps in series other than the 1:250,000 scale been revised?

(c) Was the practical assistance promised by Greece still available?

20. Mr. Pallikaris (Greece) responded to these questions by stating that the gazetteer had been completed in digital form only and the ELOT 743 transliteration system had been automatically applied. Revision of the 1:50,000-scale map series, together with those at scales 1:250,000 and 1:500,000, was under way. He stated that practical assistance to users was available and that past experience had indicated that maps and gazetteers were needed.

21. Mr. Quinting (United States of America) reported that a single romanization system for Korean was being jointly devised by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea and, once finalized, the system would need to be studied and evaluated by the Group of Experts.

22. On the subject of the GOST 1983 transliteration system for Russian, Mr. Quinting asked for information on the progress of work on the new Atlas Mira (World Atlas), as well as on any other publications utilizing the GOST system.

23. Mr. Quinting spoke of the complex situation concerning a romanization system for Thai. There were two proposed versions: one based on transliteration and one based on transcription. Mr. Quinting noted that several changes had been made in 1991 to the system presented in 1987. He also noted the abundance of diacritical marks, which would pose practical problems for users, particularly as the system was designed for automated data exchange. He called for evidence of usage of the system and clarification of which system was being proposed for adoption.

24. In concluding his report, Mr. Quinting called for the opening of a dialogue with the new States of the former Soviet Union to ascertain the status of their native languages and scripts.

#### WORKING GROUP ON TERMINOLOGY

25. Mr. Kadmon (Israel) stated that a finalized glossary had been submitted to the United Nations Secretariat in May 1992. He commented on some of the inadequacies of the previous glossary, such as a bias towards Western languages and a lack of examples for terms included. A first edition of the revision had been produced and distributed in May 1991; by January 1992, further comments had

been received and incorporated into a second edition. Comments received in March and April 1992 might be included in a later version. He anticipated that the users of the terminology bulletin would include map editors, administrators and students. It had been used successfully as training material in the course held in South Africa.

26. Mr. Kadmon (Israel) concluded by saying that, although the glossary was in English, in order to conform to the original aim a multilingual edition was desirable and a resolution to this effect would be put before the Sixth Conference.

#### WORKING GROUP ON TRAINING

27. Mr. Ormeling, Sr. (Netherlands) presented the report of the working group and reiterated the details of the course held in South Africa. He noted the important contribution of the private sector to the course, which underlined the importance of names standardization.

#### REPORT OF THE ARABIC DIVISION

28. Mr. Tazi (Morocco) reported that several successful divisional meetings had taken place and a number of important matters had been highlighted, such as how to convince citizens of the importance of geographical names and the need to preserve Arabic names and how important it was to form national names authorities for the purposes of standardization.

#### PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

29. There was a general discussion and review of the agenda for the Sixth Conference. Mr. Randall (United States of America) requested that the subheading "Antarctic names" be added under item 10 and that additional time be given to item 8. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the relevance of item 14 - the social and economic values of standardization. It was pointed out that, while experts appreciated those values, the general public did not and their importance should be highly publicized.

#### REVIEW OF THE STATUTE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

30. Working paper 4 dealt with proposed alterations to the Statute. 2/ There were no changes to the section on principles; however, working paper No. 4 suggested numerous changes to the sections on aims and functions. Mr. Randall (United States of America) indicated that the general objective had been to encourage a more practical direction for the Group of Experts. There was lengthy discussion regarding the changes and it was agreed that many points should be referred to the drafting committee and that the results should be presented to the Sixth Conference. There was a further lengthy debate on the omission of discussions of a more theoretical nature within the Group of Experts, as well as on the need for uniformity of working practices within the

Divisions. A lively discussion ensued on the subject of publicity and dissemination of information. It was felt that communicating with the media was a matter of individual preference and was not a function of the Group of Experts.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

##### Linguistic divisions

31. The Chairman invited comments on the divisional composition of the Group. He recommended that, in view of the high level of interest in toponymy and the similarity of issues faced in the southern African region, a separate Africa South Division be created. Mr. Kadmon (Israel), referring to his experience at the recent training courses in South Africa, agreed with this recommendation.

32. The Chairman read a recently received facsimile from the Executive Secretary of ECA which put forward the above-mentioned proposal. ECA had also suggested the establishment of an Arabic-speaking division of North Africa and a resolution to this effect could be presented at the Sixth Conference.

33. Mr. Rannut (Estonia) made known the interest of his country and that of Latvia and Lithuania in the creation of a Baltic Division. The question of the former USSR Division was discussed, with general agreement that the Division had been dissolved and that the newly independent nations of the Division should form one or more new divisions if they so desired.

##### Seventh Conference

34. Mr. Tazi (Morocco) proposed that the Seventh Conference, to be held in 1997, include a celebration in honour of all present and previous experts and their work.

##### 2nd meeting

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

35. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 September 1992, the Group elected the following officers:

Chairman: Peter E. Raper (South Africa),

Vice-Chairman: Helen Kerfoot (Canada),

Rapporteur: Roger Payne (United States of America).

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

### Resolution 1. Creation of an Africa South Division; a Baltic Division; and an Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division

36. Mr. Raper (South Africa) announced that in addition to South Africa, Botswana was a member of the Africa South Division and that Zimbabwe had indicated a desire to join.

37. Mr. Rannut (Estonia) noted that in a previous meeting in Tallinn, it had been determined that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania would be members of the Baltic Division.

38. The Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division would include, among other countries, Azerbaijan and Ukraine. Azerbaijan would also be a member of the Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic). Ukraine would also be a member of the East Central and South-East Europe Division, the Russian Federation would be a member of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division, as well as of the Baltic Division.

39. Mr. Malmirian (Islamic Republic of Iran) announced that Turkmenistan had officially adopted the use of the Farsi language and had indicated at the Fourth Meeting of the Asia South-West (other than Arabic) Division, in Tehran, that Turkmenistan would be joining that Division.

### Resolution 2. Latin American Division

40. Mr. Bejar (Mexico) indicated that since the representative of Cuba was absent he would act as the Division's official representative and that the representatives of Mexico, El Salvador, Venezuela and Brazil would contact the other Division members to determine positive ways to reactivate the work of the Division.

### Resolution 3. Statements of the aims and functions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

41. Mr. Randall (United States of America) suggested that at the next UNGEGN meeting each Division report on the positive action taken to implement the revised aims and functions. The Group agreed with the suggestion.

### Resolution 4. Working Group on Evaluation

42. The question of country reports at the Seventh Conference was clarified by the Secretary. Each country would be asked to submit a report and a summary and the Secretariat would then submit to the Conference one document containing the summaries. Mr. Helleland (Norway) suggested that the reports be comprehensive and detailed but that only a short oral summary be made. The Secretary stated that guidelines had been distributed for the Sixth Conference. A lengthy

discussion ensued regarding the content of the reports. It was noted that important items were often included in country reports rather than item papers and as a result were not properly discussed. Conversely, some individual item papers covered less important matters that properly belonged in a country report. The Secretary urged that country reports and item papers be submitted well in advance and that important points be addressed in separate papers. It was further suggested that papers be grouped by category and it was pointed out that grouping by agenda item generally accomplished that goal. Also, some papers were actually written at the Conference, in response to another paper, and it was questioned whether that practice should be eliminated or at least controlled. There was discussion on the matter but no conclusion was reached.

43. There followed a lengthy discussion, initiated by Mr. Helleland (Norway), regarding the need for a document or handbook dealing with methods of fulfilling UNGEGN goals. Mr. Kadmon (Israel) suggested that two publications were needed:

- (a) A compendium of work discussed and resolved by UNGEGN;
- (b) A textbook on toponymy.

44. The discussion continued on the need to classify the resolutions of the past 25 years, especially with regard to relevance. Ms. Kerfoot (Canada) pointed out that her office had produced a classification by subject based on the category or type of resolution and that the file and document would be updated with the resolutions of the Sixth Conference. The Chairman expressed appreciation for that work. Mr. Randall (United States of America) indicated that the Working Group on Evaluation had begun to classify resolutions based on relevance but it was a highly subjective exercise.

45. The Secretary was asked if the United Nations could provide documents on request. He replied that there was a scarcity of storage and other related resources and it was much more efficient for users to make their own copies.

46. The Secretary was asked if the United Nations could take on the maintenance of the list of national geographical names authorities, which had already been started.

#### Resolution 5. Working Group on Publicity and Funding

47. It was decided to consider resolution 5 under the question of working groups (agenda item 3).

#### Resolution 6. Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

48. It was noted and reaffirmed that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had offered to host the Seventh Conference in 1997.

Resolution 7. Toponymic guidelines

49. Various members requested that the guidelines be published in World Cartography 3/ and the Chairman once again urged all those countries that had not done so to prepare toponymic guidelines. Mr. Speiss (Switzerland) inquired whether the guidelines should be submitted in camera-ready form and in what particular language. The Secretary reiterated that the guidelines must be camera-ready and in one of the official United Nations languages. Ms. LeJeune (France) asked how translation into the language of each Division would be accomplished. The Chairman replied that translation was the responsibility of each Division.

Resolution 8. Information from countries regarding changes in geographical names

50. The Chairman and the Secretary urged the members, on behalf of their countries, to submit appropriate changes to the Secretary for dissemination.

Resolution 9. Recognition of national standardization

51. It was generally agreed and reaffirmed that unauthorized changes to geographical names were unacceptable and should not be recognized.

Resolution 10. List of country names

52. It was decided to consider this resolution under agenda item 3 (Working Groups).

Resolution 11. Glossary on toponymic terminology

53. It was decided to consider this resolution under agenda item 3 (Working Groups).

Resolution 12. Liaison with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

54. It was decided to consider this resolution under agenda item 3 (Working Groups).

Resolution 13. Training Courses - Working Groups

55. It was decided to consider this resolution under agenda item 3 (Working Groups).

Resolution 14 and 15. Votes of thanks

56. The Group of Experts expressed its appreciation to the United Nations, the United States of America and the United States Board on Geographic Names. It also reaffirmed its gratitude to the President of the Conference and the conference officers.

WORKING GROUPS

Working Group on Romanization

57. Mr. Quinting (United States of America), the co-convenor, reported that he had assumed the duties of convenor since Mr. Breu (Austria) had retired. The members unanimously reaffirmed Mr. Quinting's role. The convenor further reported that the Working Group had a full agenda, especially with the demise of the Soviet Union, and needed to be reconstituted with at least three new members. The new members of the Working Group were: Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. Abdo (Saudi Arabia), Mr. Toniolo (Italy) and Mr. Heyda (United States of America). It was further indicated that experts from countries involved in romanization were consulted on a regular basis.

Working Group on Terminology

58. Mr. Kadmon (Israel), the convenor, reported that two meetings had taken place since the UNGEGN meeting in November 1991. He further reported that since the new glossary had been adopted (resolution 11), the next task was to finalize the document and send it to the Secretariat for translation. The Secretary commented that the process was complicated and the document must be approved by the Economic and Social Council if it was to be published in translation. Allocation of additional resources must be budgeted and was not automatic.

59. Mr. Kadmon indicated that the task was not publication but translation and further suggested that at least one expert be appointed per language to coordinate translation of the glossary into the official languages of the United Nations. It was generally agreed that the United Nations should provide translations, which would then be checked by the experts. The Secretary commented that no particular time-frame could be guaranteed. The representative of the United Nations Office of Conference Services indicated a desire to help but explained that numerous priorities precluded any work before the end of 1992. The following were appointed to advise and coordinate translation activities for the glossary: Mr. Almeida (Spain), Spanish; Ms. LeJeune (France), French; Mr. Du (China), Chinese; and Mr. Abdo (Saudi Arabia), Arabic. Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) suggested Mr. Shestakov (Russian Federation) for Russian but confirmation was required since he was not present. The document might be translated into various languages by each Division, as required.



#### Working Group on Toponymic Data Files

60. Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the convenor, reported that the major activity had been the design and distribution of a questionnaire to determine the nature and extent of both analogue and digital toponymic data files. Mr. Lewis thanked Ms. Mattisson (Sweden) for her work regarding the questionnaire. The task before them was to analyse the information in order to show the scope of the technology, assist in the transfer of technology and determine the level and extent of training associated with automated data processing.

61. Mr. Payne (United States of America) commented that it might be necessary to begin the process of identifying and establishing required and optional data elements. Ms. Kerfoot (Canada) emphasized the importance of establishing standards for automated data files.

#### Working Group on Training

62. Mr. Ormeling, Sr. (Netherlands), on behalf of the convenor, reiterated plans to hold a training course in the Netherlands, to be funded 50 per cent by the Government of the Netherlands and 50 per cent by the United Nations. Mr. Raper (South Africa) announced that there was a proposal to hold a training course in Botswana before the next Conference. Mr. Randall (United States of America) announced that the next geographical names course under the auspices of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History was scheduled for October and November 1992, in Brazil. Members of the UNGEGN emphasized that on-the-job training was as important and often more important than formal courses. Mr. Raper (South Africa), Mr. Kadmon (Israel), Ms. Kerfoot (Canada), and Mr. Randall and Mr. Payne (United States of America) expressed a wish to participate in the Working Group.

#### Liaison with the Scientific Committee for Antarctica Research

63. Mr. Sievers (Germany) was unanimously elected UNGEGN liaison officer.

#### Working Group on Toponymic Guidelines

64. Mr. Raper (South Africa) indicated that he had been appointed temporary convenor and further encouraged all who had not done so to submit appropriate guidelines.

#### Working Group on Publicity and Funding

65. Mr. Randall (United States of America) was elected unanimously as convenor. The members of the Working Group were Ms. Kerfoot (Canada), Mr. O'Maolfabhail (Ireland), Mr. Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. Raper (South Africa) and Mr. Speiss (Switzerland). There was a short discussion about organizational matters and the relationship between publicity

and funding. The draft brochure on toponymy prepared by Mr. Ormeling (Netherlands), would be considered by the Working Group.

#### Working Group on Country Names

66. Mr. Helleland (Norway) suggested that a handbook of achievements by experts over the years should be planned. Ms. LeJeune (France) was elected unanimously as convenor. The members of the Working Group were Mr. DeSoye (Austria), Mr. Heyda (United States of America), Ms. Opie-Smith (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. Almeida (Spain), Mr. Abdo (Saudi Arabia), Mr. Giochalas (Greece) and Mr. Rogachev (Russian Federation). There was a general discussion, the results of which indicated that it was important to establish lists of country names in local form, transliterate those names according to the appropriate United Nations-sanctioned romanization system and publish the list before the names were translated into the official United Nations language.

#### Formation of a Commemorative Working Group (1997 Conference)

67. Mr. Ormeling (Netherlands) suggested that a working group be formed to begin planning the commemorative events scheduled to take place during the Seventh Conference. A lively discussion took place among the experts about who should make up such a working group and indeed whether its formation might be premature. Mr. Abdo (Saudi Arabia) suggested that the convenor of the working group, should it be formed, ought to be Mr. Tazi (Morocco), since the event was being considered at his suggestion. Mr. Malmirian (Islamic Republic of Iran) suggested that a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (the host for the Seventh Conference) work with the working group and the Secretariat.

68. Further discussion by various experts suggested that the Working Group on Publicity and Funding might begin the process at least until the next UNEGN meeting. There was much discussion about the growing responsibility of the newly formed Working Group on Publicity and Funding.

69. The Chairman summarized the recommendation of the Group as follows: the Working Group on Publicity and Funding would begin the initial investigation into possible commemorative events at the Seventh Conference in 1997, with the assistance of Mr. Tazi (Morocco), a representative of the host country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Abdo (Saudi Arabia) and the Secretariat.

#### SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

70. The seventeenth session of the Group of Experts was tentatively scheduled for August 1994, at the United Nations Office at Geneva; the provisional agenda was approved (see annex). There was considerable discussion on the modification of UNEGN agendas. It was agreed that working group meetings needed to take place during working hours so as to have the advantage of simultaneous interpretation and the involvement of more interested individuals. Each working group should submit a report and should subsequently be scheduled for a full

session during working hours. It was pointed out that more time would probably be required than the duration of the current session and it was decided that eight to ten working days would be desirable if economically feasible.

71. Various comments regarding the format of UNGEGN meetings prompted the suggestion that the evaluations submitted by delegates to the Sixth Conference be analysed and the results published in the UNGEGN Newsletter.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

##### List of country names

72. There would be a new list of country names prepared by the newly formed Working Group on Country Names. The list of country names in local languages could not, according to the representative from the Office of Conference Services, be annexed to Terminology Bulletin No. 342, but Conference Services would assist in updating the new list.

73. Mr. Randall (United States of America) indicated that the United States distributed lists of new names in response to political and other changes. Any interested parties might be put on the mailing list and all present indicated that they would like to be on the list. Mr. Ormeling (Netherlands) asked if the name changes from the former USSR could be channelled through the Secretariat and published in the Newsletter. The Secretariat indicated that this would be done. Mr. Toniolo (Italy) announced that Mr. Jordan (Austria) had prepared a comprehensive list of name changes that was soon to be published (in German). Mr. Ormeling (Netherlands) asked if Mr. Jordan's list could be published and the Chairman indicated that Mr. Jordan would be contacted.

##### Burrill paper

74. At the request of a number of experts, the special paper presented by Mr. Meredith Burrill (United States of America - emeritus) at the Sixth Conference would be reproduced and circulated.

##### Notes

1/ For the list of participants, see Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 24 August to 3 September 1992, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations Sales publication, forthcoming).

2/ See Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Montreal, 18-31 August 1987, vol. I, Report of the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.I.7), annex V.

3/ The publication is usually issued every two years.

Annex

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report of the Chairman.
4. Report of the Secretary.
5. Reports of the Divisions.
6. Reports of the liaison officers, regional meetings and international organizations.
7. Reports of the Working Groups.
8. Meeting of the Working Group on Courses, Seminars and Practical Training in Toponymy.
9. Meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers.
10. Meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.
11. Meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems.
12. Meeting of the Working Group on Country Names
13. Meeting of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.
14. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.
15. Exonyms.
16. Standardization in multilingual areas.
17. Implementation of resolutions and the aims and functions of UNGEGN.
18. Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
19. Eighteenth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
20. Other matters.
21. Adoption of the report.

## II. NEWS FROM THE DIVISIONS

### A. Africa South Division

Peter Raper (South Africa)

The Africa South Division was established by resolution 1 of the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 25 August to 3 September 1992). To date Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have joined the Division; Angola, Mozambique and Zaire have not yet reacted to the invitations.

The Department of Lands and Surveys of the Government of Botswana has extended invitations for a UNGEGN Toponymic Training Course in Gaborone from 16 to 23 June 1993. A UNGEGN Toponymic Training Course for the Division, hosted by South Africa, is being planned for the third quarter of 1993. It will be arranged jointly by the UNGEGN, the National Place Names Committee of the State Department of National Education, and the University of South Africa.

### B. Dutch- and German-Speaking Division

Peter Raper (South Africa)

A meeting of the DGSD was held to coincide with the 8th International Cartographic Conference held in Cologne, from 3 to 9 May 1993. It was attended by Prof. F.J. Ormeling (Netherlands), Dr. P.E. Raper (South Africa; Chairman), Dr. K.A. Seel (Germany), Dr. J. Sievers (Germany) and Prof. E. Spiess (Switzerland); Dr. P. Jordan (Austria) attended the meeting as an observer. The experts reported on progress made in their respective countries since the Sixth United Nations Conference. Other topics discussed were: exonyms, glossary of toponymic terminology, training courses in toponymy, toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, and preparation for the 17th Session of the UNGEGN.

### C. East, Central and South-East Europe Division

Pavel Boháč (Czech Republic)

#### Announcement of the establishment of a new independent State

The extinguishment of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic - a federal State consisting of two republics: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic - was effected on 31 December 1992.

On 1 January 1993 the Czech Republic became an independent State with the unchanged name of the Czech Republic and unchanged state borders. The territory is composed of the historical Czech lands: Bohemia, Moravia and the Czech part of Silesia.

The official name of the state is Česka republika, the Czech Republic in English, la République tchèque in French, Republica Checa in Spanish, Чешская Республика in Russian and die Tschechische Republik in German.

The short form of the name of the Czech Republic in the Czech language has not yet been officially standardized and is not used for the time being; to use it in the main languages we recommend the following:

in English: Czechia or Czechland(s), in French: Tchéquie (fem.), in Spanish: Chequia (fem.), in Russian: Чехия (fem.), in German: Tschechien (neutrum). The name Bohemia, Bohême, Böhmen (in Czech: Čechy) is not suitable or correct for using as a short form of the name of the Czech Republic, because it names only a part of it.

The capital of the Czech Republic is Praha (Prague, Praga, Прага, Prag).

According to the Constitution of the Czech Republic its territory is divided self-governing municipalities and higher self-governing units which have not been constituted as yet. The territorial divisions are the districts existing before 1st January 1993. The number of the 75 districts and their names have not been changed since 1960 when they were constituted in the present form, with the exception of the district of Gottwaldov which was renamed to Zlin in 1990 in connection with the changes in the name of the town and the seat of the above district, i.e. Gottwaldov to Zlin. A special unit of the territorial administration of the Czech Republic is the city of Prague divided into 10 municipal parts having the same characters as the districts.

D. United States of America-Canada Division

# FOREIGN NAMES INFORMATION BULLETIN

Prepared by the  
U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
Foreign Names Committee Staff

Published by the  
Defense Mapping Agency



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**Bulletin No. 4**

**15 February 1993**

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**FOREIGN NAMES  
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**PURPOSE OF THIS BULLETIN**

Continuing changes in various parts of the world have necessitated a publication that provides appropriate information on changes in the names of countries, first-order administrative divisions (such as a state in the United States), important populated places, and other significant geographic features. In order to satisfy that requirement, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) has initiated the publication of the *Foreign Names Information Bulletin*.

This fourth bulletin provides former names and new names of major features approved by BGN since the issuance of the third bulletin in October 1992. Future issues of the bulletin will be published as often as is considered necessary. To receive a copy of the current issue or previous issues, please call one of the following numbers:

Washington, DC area: (301) 227-2495  
Outside the Washington, DC area: (800) 826-0342

To be placed on a mailing list to receive all future issues automatically, please call (301) 227-2360.

The *Foreign Names Information Bulletin* supplements the quarterly publication, *Foreign Names Decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names*. Requests for the latter publication, which includes much of the information in the *Foreign Names Information Bulletin*, should be addressed to:

Director  
DMACSC  
ATTN: PMSR  
6001 MacArthur Boulevard  
Bethesda, MD 20816-5001



**INTERPRETATION OF ENTRIES**

• Names from languages not using Roman script have been romanized by means of romanization systems approved by BGN and its U.K. counterpart, the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use. In Bulletin No. 4, spellings romanized from Cyrillic script are used for the names in Azerbaijan and Serbia\*.

• Underlined parts of names identify short-form names. Both short-form and long-form names are approved for use.

• Conventional names are English-language names which are in current usage and which are approved by BGN.

• Provisional names are English-language names that have been found in English-language sources or derived from non-English-language forms and which are specified for use only because new local official names are not yet available for BGN approval. Provisional names are to be used only until such time as names romanized from the appropriate national-language sources become available.

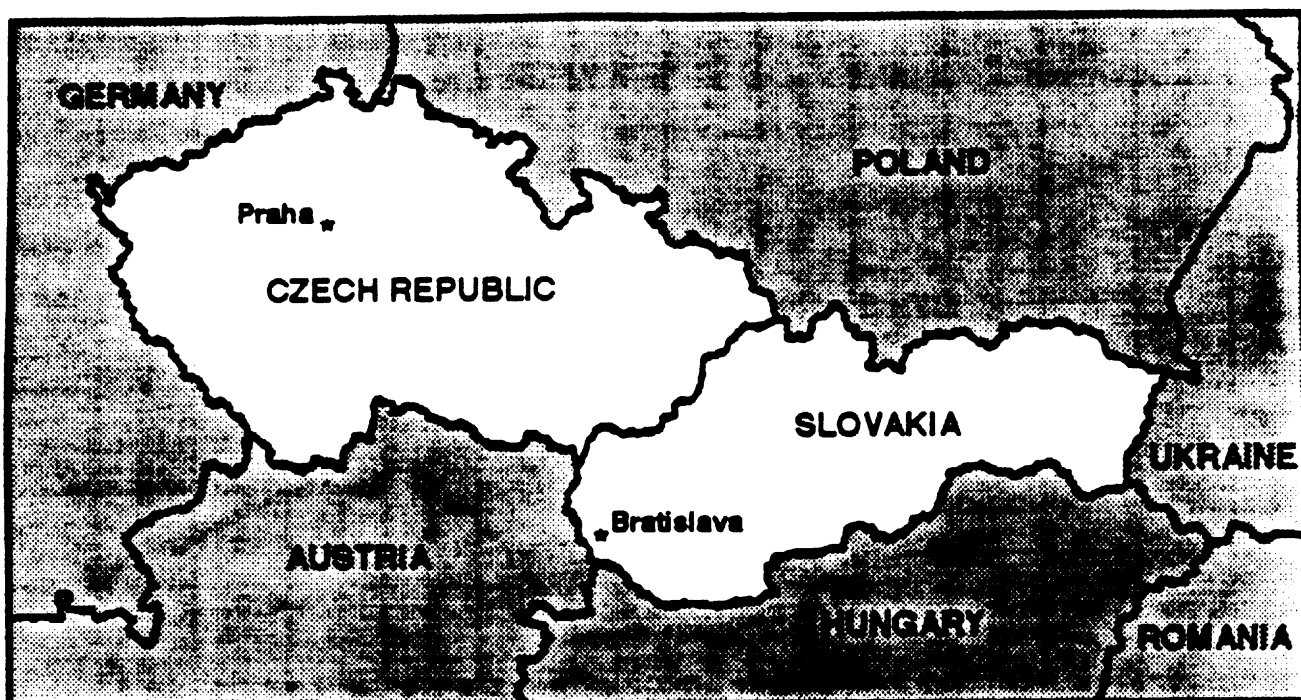
• Diacritics are graphic marks, usually occurring above or below a letter, indicating differences in pronunciation or meaning, as compared to an unmarked letter of the alphabet. Examples are the acute accent (´) and the cedilla (,).

**DESIGNATION CODES USED IN THIS BULLETIN**

ADM1	first-order administrative division (for example, a province)
PCLI	independent political entity
PPL	populated place
RGN	region

\* part of former Yugoslavia but not recognized as an independent political entity by the United States

## Former Czechoslovakia



January 1993

Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

**Former Name****New Name****AZERBAIJAN**

Gyandzha: PPL, 40°41'N., 46°22'E.      Gänjä: PPL, 40°41'N., 46°22'E.  
 Pushkino: PPL, 39°27'N., 48°32'E.      Biläsuvar: PPL, 39°27'N., 48°32'E.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Česká Republika [Czech]; Czech Republic  
 [conventional]: ADM1,  
 49°45'N., 15°00'E.      Czech Republic [conventional]; Česká  
 Republika [Czech]: PCLI,  
 49°45'N., 15°00'E.

Czechoslovakia [conventional short  
 form]; Czech and Slovak Federal Republic  
 [conventional long form];  
 Československo [Czech and Slovak  
 short form]; Česká a Slovenská  
 Federativní Republika [Czech long  
 form]; Česká a Slovenská Federatívna  
 Republika [Slovak long form]:  
 PCLI, 49°00'N., 18°00'E.      Delete

Silesia: RGN, 51°00'N., 18°00'E.      Silesia [conventional]; Slezsko  
 [CZECH REPUBLIC]; Śląsk [POLAND]:  
 RGN, 51°00'N., 18°00'E.

Slovenská Republika [Slovak]; Slovak  
 Republic [conventional]: ADM1,  
 48°40'N., 19°30'E.      Slovakia [conventional short form];  
 Slovak Republic [conventional long  
 form]; Slovenská Republika [Slovak]:  
 PCLI, 48°40'N., 19°30'E.

Slovensko [Slovak]; Slovakia  
 [conventional]: RGN,  
 48°40'N., 19°30'E.      Delete

**IVORY COAST**

Ivory Coast, Republic of the  
 [conventional]; République de  
Côte d'Ivoire [French]: PCLI,  
 8°00'N., 5°00'W.      Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of  
 [conventional]; République de  
Côte d'Ivoire [French]: PCLI,  
 8°00'N., 5°00'W.

**POLAND**

Silesia: RGN, 51°00'N., 18°00'E.      Silesia [conventional]; Śląsk  
 [POLAND]; Slezsko [CZECH  
 REPUBLIC]: RGN,  
 51°00'N., 18°00'E.

Former Name	New Name
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**\* SERBIA \***

Svetozarevo: PPL, 43°59'N., 21°15'E.	Jagodina: PPL, 43°59'N., 21°15'E.
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\* part of former Yugoslavia but not recognized as an independent political entity by the United States

## PROVISIONAL NAMES IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Former Name	Provisional Name
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**RUSSIA**

Aginskiy Buryatskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 51°00'N., 114°30'E.	Aga
Chukotskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 67°30'N., 170°00'E.	Chukotka
Evenkiyskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 65°00'N., 95°00'E.	Evenkia
Khanty-Mansiyskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 62°00'N., 72°00'E.	Khantia-Mansia
Komi-Permyatskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 60°00'N., 54°30'E.	Permyakia
Koryakskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 62°00'N., 166°00'E.	Koryakia
Nenetskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 67°30'N., 54°00'E.	Nenetsia
Taymyrskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 72°00'N., 95°00'E.	Taymyria
Ust'-Ordynskiy Buryatskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 53°30'N., 104°00'E.	Ust'-Orda
Yamalo-Nenetskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug: ADM3, 66°00'N., 76°00'E.	Yamalia
Yevreyskaya Avtonomnaya Oblast': ADM3, 48°30'N., 132°00'E.	Birobijan

**Former Name**

**Provisional Name**

**TAJIKISTAN**

Gorno-Badakhshanskaya Avtonomnaya Oblast': Gorno-Badakhshan  
ADM2, 38°00'N., 73°00'E.