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GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Newsletter

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UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

NEWSLETTER

FOREWORD

The Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held at Montreal from 18 to 31 August 1987 adopted a resolution on the publication of a semi-annual bulletin giving information provided by countries on their respective activities related to geographical names, such as significant decisions and publications, regional meetings, training courses.

As Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, I address my grateful thanks to national authorities who did provide valuable information for this first issue of the semi-annual bulletin/newsletter which, we hope, will gradually establish a world information network relating to geographical names.

It has been felt that such a network is of utmost necessity for the dissemination of the results of the many international, regional and national meetings and activities which contribute to cope with the multifarious problems in the standardization of geographical names. Experience has to be shared among national authorities in the fields of name collecting and treatment, guidelines, gazetteers, computer systems or training. Information on the implementation in different countries of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conferences also has to be taken into account in assessing the

impact of the international trend to standardization. In the field of geographical names, such a trend has to be balanced with the cultural dimension of toponymy, as the collective memory of nations.

True, the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, while supporting national, regional and international initiatives in the field of geographical names, is facing a real challenge of preserving by all means toponymic integrity of all parts of the world while permitting users from everywhere to have an easy access to the cultural and historical message which geographical names are vested with, through modern and efficient means, like maps, gazetteers and geographical data bases.

Future issues of this Newsletter will provide information on different aspects of this challenge: romanization, native geographical names, names of international features, international cooperation....

May I address my grateful thanks to the United Nations Secretariat for the precious and valuable work which has made the publication of this Newsletter possible, and also to the national authorities and correspondents who have contributed to this publication and will contribute to future issues.

Henry Dorion
Chairman
United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names

AVANT-PROPOS

Grâce à la collaboration de plusieurs autorités toponymiques nationales, ce premier Bulletin qui répond à un vœu exprimé lors de la Ve Conférence des Nations Unies sur la normalisation des noms géographiques voit le jour et constitue le premier chaînon d'un réseau d'information mondiale en cette matière. Celui-ci permettra l'échange d'expériences dans des domaines où la coopération internationale constitue une condition sine qua non de la mise en application des nombreuses résolutions adoptées par la Ve Conférence des Nations Unies.

L'information que contiendront les futures éditions de ce bulletin touchera donc les décisions et publications importantes des différentes autorités, les réunions régionales, les sessions de formation en gestion toponymique, les systèmes de romanisation, la toponymie autochtone, la désignation des espaces internationaux et, en général, tous sujets relatifs à la coopération internationale en matière de normalisation des noms géographiques.

Cet organe périodique constituera un apport très précieux pour les travaux du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques. A celui-ci, comme à la Conférence et aux pays participants, s'offre un défi de taille: celui de préserver et valoriser les valeurs culturelles dont sont porteuses les toponymies locales, en rendant celles-ci, accessibles aux utilisateurs du monde entier par des moyens technologiquement avancés et performants.

Au nom des membres du Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies sur les noms géographiques, j'exprime mes remerciements sincères au Secrétariat des Nations Unies pour son appui très efficace diligent, dans cette entreprise.

Henri Dorion
Président
Groupe d'experts des Nations
Unies pour les noms géographiques

NEWS FROM THE AFRICA WEST DIVISION

From: D.A. Omoigui (Nigeria)

The Federal Government of Nigeria has decided to establish a National Committee on Geographical Names with Local Advisory Committees in 21 States as well as in the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja. The Committee is to have its own Secretariat and an Executive Secretary.

NEWS FROM ASIA EAST DIVISION (OTHER THAN CHINA)

From: Koichi Tsukahara (Japan)

In Japan, data treatment has been carried out in connection with the map preparation works in the Geographical Survey Institute and the Hydrographic Department, Maritime Agency. The following committees have been convened during the period September 1987 to March 1988: Assembly on Geographical Names in Oceans, (October 1987), Joint Committee on the Standardization of Geographical Names, (March 1988), and Antarctic Place-Names Committee of Japan, (February 1988). These three committees are held periodically once or twice a year. As to the function of the committees and agencies concerned, the reference should be made to the report E/CONF.79/INF/7 submitted to the 5th United Nations Conference.

NEWS FROM ASIA SOUTH-EAST AND PACIFIC SOUTH-WEST DIVISION

From: Abdul Majid Mohamed (Malaysia)

- 1 The fully coloured 3rd edition of the Physical Map for Asia, South-East and Pacific South-West was printed by the Department of Survey and Mapping of Malaysia using the same base map of the 5th edition of the Political Map, scale 1:7 million, which was printed earlier. Twenty

copies of the above Physical Map were distributed to all member countries concerned. Areas covering the map face of Burma, Democratic Kampuchea, Laos, Viet Nam and Papua New Guinea were left blank as no information was received from these member countries.

2. At present, each member country has reported handling its own national gazetteer either manually or by computers. This has introduced many new and effective ways in gazetteer data manipulations with significant improvements over existing manual methods. In this connection, the Department of Survey and Mapping, Malaysia is replacing manual techniques and procedures with computer emulation towards the creation of a data base of the contents of the Concise, Regional and National Gazetteers, in the Department's computer system for easy updating, cross-referencing, fast retrieval and publication. To date, we have almost completed the toponymic data files for the National Gazetteer and should soon be moving towards the Concise and Regional Gazetteers.
3. In regard to regional meetings the 4th Meeting of the United Nations Divisional Group of Experts on Geographical Names for Asia, South-East and Pacific, South-West Division will be held at Bangkok, Thailand sometime in August 1988. The date and venue will be confirmed at a later date.

4. Concerning future activities, the Divisional Chairman, will endeavour to table at the next meeting of the Group, the activities that were not yet fully implemented viz. the Regional Atlas and the Newsletter (Geonames) with a view that other member countries can volunteer and to reactivate the agreed upon programs, and ensure its successful completion.
5. As regards the information on significant decisions on geographical names, a policy decision was reached by our Government to review and change the names of towns, villages and roads which carry colonial toponyms. Wherever possible and appropriate, local names are to be used, as this will not only create a national identity but is also in line with local flavour and jurisdiction. Thus the Department of Survey and Mapping, Malaysia is currently engaged in incorporating these changes into the National Gazetteer and at the same time implementing the usage of standard spelling of geographical names in all its recently published maps. This will also apply to all maps to be printed in the future.

From: Alan Brown - ITC Expert in Indonesia

1. Names collection in Sulawesi and Kalimantan

The National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping (BAKOSURTANAL) will supervise mapping contracts for new 1:50,000 scale topographic maps,

totalling about 600 sheets, of the island of Sulawesi and a large part of eastern and central Kalimantan. A World Bank financed project is training BAKOSURTANAL staff for this task, over a period of four years. Part of this training involves name collection and archiving. Two experts, one from ITC, The Netherlands and the other from the Institute of Technology, Bandung, Indonesia, are involved in this geographical names work for a total of approximately six man-months. A standardized system for name collection has been developed, closely adhering to the principles set out in relevant resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The mapping contractors will follow this system when collecting names in the field and during office treatment of names.

2. Training of BAKOSURTANAL staff in name collection

BAKOSURTANAL staff are being trained in the use of the names collection system mentioned above. A group of 6 supervisory staff has been trained locally and also during 10 days of fieldwork in Lampung province, Sumatera. This work had as its other purpose the collection of names for a new edition of a sheet of the 1:250.000 series, in an area where the former settlement names are being replaced by new ones, due to transmigration. It is the intention to train more staff of the cartography and photogrammetry sections in this work, in the period to mid 1988.

3. The need for a National Board on Geographical Names

The need for a National Board is again becoming topical, particularly regarding name standardization, name giving in transmigration areas and exonyms.

- 3.1. It is still the case that different branches of government sometimes use different forms of a name. An unsolved problem is whether or not to separate compound names e.g. Bandar Jaya or Bandarjaya. An official National Board could adjudicate on these matters.
- 3.2. Names of new villages in transmigration areas are decided in consultation between the village heads and the local authorities. In general, the present policy is to avoid the transference of Javanese or Balinese settlement names to other islands. The question remains as to what to do with the proliferation of Surabaya's, Pekalongan's etc. in older transmigration areas.
- 3.3 Perhaps because it has historically been written using the Arabic and Javanese alphabets before the change to the Roman alphabet, and has fairly recently (1972) undergone a spelling change, the Indonesian language still has a strong tendency to phonetic spelling of loan words e.g. sukses, dokter, polisi (from Dutch politie). Indonesians are therefore very free in their use of exonyms. The "Balai Pustaka" state

supported educational publishers has issued a long list of recommended forms of Indonesian and foreign place names for use in geographical textbooks and atlases, so Phoenix becomes Funiks, Papua New Guinea becomes Papua Nugini, etc. This standardization is certainly an improvement on the previous somewhat chaotic situation, but it does not follow the policy of the UNGEGN on avoidance of exonyms.

4. A note on the Indonesian administrative structure

Indonesia is divided into 27 provinces (propinsi), including the Jakarta Region as a separate province. The provinces are further subdivided into districts (Kabupaten) with the larger cities (kotamadya, kota administratif) having district status. Each kabupaten is divided into sub-districts (kecamatan), with the sub-districts divided into villages (desa). The desa is in fact an administrative area and may contain four or more small settlements (kampung). Despite this well-ordered system, there are problems when compiling medium and small-scale maps from topographic maps.

- a) It is not always clear in which town or village the kecamatan offices are located. This information is available nationally from the Central Bureau of Statistics and from the Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General of Regional Development.

- b) Information on desa names is available usually only at province or kabupaten level.
- c) A desa may contain several kampungs, but perhaps none bearing the actual desa name which therefore does not appear on the topographic map. Topographic maps also do not distinguish between desas and kampungs. Without detailed research it is therefore difficult to make a good selection of village names for small-scale mapping.

5. Footnote

The twin towns of Tanjungkarang and Telukbetung have been amalgamated to form Bandar Lampung, the capital of Lampung province in Sumatera. Most national and provincial authorities refer to this city as Bandard Lampung, but others, including Balai Pustaka, refer to it as Bandarlampung.

NEWS FROM THE CHINA DIVISION

From: Du Xiangming (China)

China Committee on Geographical Names:

Information on activities in Geographical Names in China (September 1987 - March 1988)

1. Communication and implementation of decisions adopted by the Fifth United Nations Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names

- 1. After the Conference the delegation of China prepared a report which was submitted to the State Council and to all members of the China Committee

on Geographical Names as well as to member agencies. It was also distributed to the sub-committees on geographical names in provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government. The report described the situations at the Conference, the resolutions adopted as well as proposals on their implementation.

2. Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the China Committee on Geographical Names

In order to strengthen the management of geographical names, to standardize Chinese geographical names and promote international standardization, the State Council in 1977 approved the establishment of China Committee on Geographical Names. Under the guidance of the State Council, the Committee has made great progress in those ten years. For its tenth anniversary, the administrative body of the Committee held a tea party on September 26, 1987. Many important persons attended, such as Ye Rutang, Chairman of the Committee (Ministry of Urban and Rural Construction and Environment Protection), Zou Entong, Vice Chairman of the Committee (Ministry of Civil Affairs), Li Ximu, Vice Chairman of the Committee, Chen Junyong, Director General of the National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, and Zeng Shiyong as its member. At the party, Wang Jitong, Secretary-general of the Committee reviewed briefly the progress in the standardization of geographical names in China in the past ten years. The main points were as follows:

- 2.1 A nation-wide study on geographical names had been basically completed. Through the study, we know the real situation and problems in geographical names. Many relevant record materials and other data have been collected. At the same time, in accordance with the Temporary Rules on Giving and Changing Geographical Names in China promulgated by the State Council, geographical names were carefully checked up and standardized, and most of the existing confusion was eliminated and removed. As a result, the study lays a very firm foundation for further management of geographical names.
- 2.2 Archives and data files on geographical names at various levels had been set up and are being perfected step by step. Experiments on computerized storage and retrieval of information on geographical names had also been conducted.
- 2.3 A Gazetteer of Geographical Names in the People's Republic of China is being compiled. The volume on Jiangsu province has already been published. Other volumes, such as on Zhejiang, Shanghai, Taiwan, etc., will also be published one by one in the near future.

- 2.4 The normalization of foreign geographical names into Chinese characters has been promoted. The China Committee on Geographical Names has issued "The General Rules on the Transliteration of Foreign Geographical Names into Chinese Characters", and the transliteration tables for 50 languages. The Manual on Transliteration of Foreign Geographical Names and The Manual on Transliteration of Geographical Names of the United States of America have been published. The manuals on transliteration of geographical names of the Soviet Union, The Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom will also be published in succession in the near future.
- 2.5 Laws and regulations on the management of geographical names have been introduced. The China Committee on Geographical Names was charged by the State Council to draft The Temporary Rules on Giving and Changing Geographical Names in China (1979) and the Regulations on the Management of Geographical Names in China (1986), which were put into effect by the State Council in 1979 and 1986.
- 2.6 The study of toponymy had been furthered. The Preparatory Group of the China Research Society on Toponymy held a meeting for the establishment of the society in May 1987. The Group decided that the inaugural meeting and the first academic conference would be held simultaneously in the second quarter of 1988.

For the sake of propaganda, the administrative body of the China Committee on Geographical Names edited a Special Issue for the Tenth Anniversary of the Establishment of China Committee on Geographical Names. Han Guang, leader of the Party Central Committee, and Ye Rutang, Minister of Urban and Rural Construction Department, made impromptu inscriptions with a high spirit for this special issue. Other leaders of the Committee Wang Dajun, Pu Tongxiu, Li Ximu, Zeng Shiyong and Wang Jitong, also presented their articles for the issue. The Record on Important Events of China Committee on Geographical Names also received prominent coverage in the special issue.

3. Symposium on the management of domestic geographical names

In order to compare experience on the management of geographical names, to implement "Regulation on the Management of Geographical Names in China", and to plan the future work, the China Committee held a Symposium on the Management of Domestic Geographical Names in Wuxi, Jiangsu province in October 1987. Eighty-five delegates from the departments concerned under the State Council and sub-committees in provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities attended. Yang Chen made a congratulatory speech as a representative of the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Wang Jitong gave a report on the status and existing problems of the management of domestic geographical names.

The Symposium agenda included the following items:

- a) Methods of the management of geographical names.
- b) Establishment of the signals of geographical names.
- c) Dissemination, use and management of the standardized names.
- d) Giving and changing geographical names.

In order to ensure that practical and scientific materials on geographical names are being collected properly, the administrative body of the Committee submitted to the Symposium for discussion a draft document entitled "Plan on Nation-wide Supplementary Investigating and Renewing of the Material on Geographical Names".

4. Reforming the system of the leading organizations involved in the management of geographical names in China

The State Council decided to transfer the China Committee on Geographical Names from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Construction and Environmental Protection to the Ministry of Civil Affairs. As local organizations dealing with geographical names are also to be incorporated with the relevant departments of civil affairs, the China Committee on Geographical Names held a conference on 10 December 1987 to inform its members about the decision which took effect on 1 January 1988. At the conference, the Committee revised the Working Regulations of China Committee on Geographical Names, and also made a proposal on replacement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee to be submitted to the State Council.

5. Main activities of the Research Institute of Surveying and Mapping,
National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping

5.1 The index of geographical names in the National Atlas of China is being compiled. It will contain 50,000 names and is scheduled for publication in 1991.

5.2 A Dictionary of Generic Terms of Geographical Names of China is also being compiled to be published in 1990. In addition to the generic terms in common use, the dictionary includes many local generic terms related to geographical names, with reference to pronunciation, meaning and area of use. In total, the Dictionary contains 1,500 generic terms.

5.3 A training course in standardization of geographical names will be held in the last quarter of 1988 for surveyors and cartographer of the National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping.

5.4 The rules for transliteration of Tibetan (Amdo and Dêgê Dialects), Kazak and Kirgiz into Chinese characters are being revised and will be published in 1990.

5.5 The Data Base of Geographical Names as a subsystem of the National Basic Land Information System has now been established. Several data banks containing the names from 1:1,000,000 scale maps will be prepared by 1990.

NEWS FROM THE DUTCH AND GERMAN-SPEAKING DIVISION

From: Rolf Böhme, (Federal Republic of Germany)

1. Regional Meetings:

The 83rd meeting of the "Ständiger Ausschuss für Geographische Namen (STAGN) (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) was held in Frankfurt/Main in October 1987. The agenda included, inter alia, the Report of the meeting of the "Dutch and German-speaking Division (DGSD)" held in Vienna, Austria in May 1987 (Breu), Reports of the 13th session of UNGEGN and of the 5th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held at Montreal, Canada (Böhme, Breu).

German translation of Glossary No. 330 is under way. Professor Dr. H. Liedtke has been re-elected Chairman of the STAGN for the next three-year period.

2. New Publications:

Rolf Böhme: "5. Konferenz der Vereinten Nationen zur Standardisierung geographischer Namen und 13. Sitzung der Sachverständigengruppe der Vereinten Nationen in Montréal 1987". Kartographische Nachrichten No. 6/1987, pp. 231-234.

Rolf Böhme: "Neue standardisierte Umschriftungssysteme für das russische kyrillische und das griechische Alphabet". Zeitschrift für Vermessungswesen, No. 2/1988, pp. 104-107.

Rolf Böhme: "Von Černobyl bis Peiraiéfs - Die Vereinten Nationen und die Vereinheitlichung geographischer Namen". Vereinte Nationen, No. 6/1987, S. 188-194.

From: Josef Breu (Austria)

1. The Austrian Statistical Central Office (Osterreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt) is preparing the new Gazetteer of Austria (Ortsverzeichnis Osterreich), which will contain the names of the inhabited places of every size and category, based on the census to be held in 1991.
2. Federal Survey (Landesaufnahme des Bundesamtes für Eich-und Vermessungswesen) has finished the standardization of all geographical names of the 213 sheets of the Austrian Map (Osterreichische Karte) 1:500,000. Whereas the inhabited place names are taken over unaltered from the official Gazetteer of Austria in 9 volumes of 1981 (Ortsverzeichnis Osterreich 1981, 9 Bände), edited by the Austrian Statistical Office, the uninhabited-place names have been revised by the Federal Survey itself. The map series is to be updated every seven years or so.
3. The provincial toponymic bodies have continued their work (a) in assisting the Federal Survey and the Austrian Statistical Central Office in their standardization efforts, (b) in preparing provincial gazetteers (Styria, Salzburg Province), and (c) in standardizing the field names of the land register (Tyrol, Burgenland) and of the street names (Vienna, Tyrol, Burgenland).

4. The Hydrographical Bureau (Hydrographisches Zentralbüro im Bundesministerium für Land-und Forstwirtschaft) is preparing a map of the catchment area of the Drave River standardizing the names of all hydrographical features of that area.
5. The Austrian Institute for East and South-East European Studies (Osterreichisches Ost-und Südosteuropa-Institut) is preparing a multilingual register to its Atlas of the Danubian Countries (Atlas der Donauländer).
6. The Toponymic Committee of Burgenland (Burgenländische Nomenklaturkommission) has conducted a field training excursion.
7. Official publications
 - (a) of the Federal Survey (Landesaufnahme des Bundesamtes für Eich-und Vermessungswesen):

Austrian Map (Osterreichische Karte) 1:50,000, editions with revised toponymy. Sheets No. 30, 35, 36, 83, 119, 121, 136, 137, 188, 191.
 - (b) of the Austrian Statistical Central Office (Osterreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt):
 - (i) Die territorialen Grundlagen der Bundesstatistik, fasc. 863 of Beiträge zur Osterreichischen Statistik. Wien 1987.

(ii) Einteilung Österreichs in Politische Bezirke und
Gerichtsbezirke. Wien 1987.

(iii) Gemeindübersicht 1.1.1987. Wien 1987.

(iv) Karten der Gemeindergrenzen der Republik Österreich. Wien 1987.

8. Private publications

(a) Fritz Lochner von Hüttenbach, Etymologisches zu den Namen des
Bezirktes Liezen. Beiträge aus dem Kulturleben des Bezirktes Liezen
8/Heft 4 (Oktober 1987) 11 - 12, 9/Heft 1 (Februar 1988) 17 - 18.

(b) Heinz Dieter Pohl, Romanische Ortsnamen Kärntens. Romanica
Aenipotana XIV, Akten der Theodor Gartner-Tagung 1985 (Innsbruck
1987) 25-32.

(c) Peter Wiesinger, Namenkontinuität und Namendiskontinuität im Bereich
der niederösterreichischen Flüsse Pielach und Traisen. Beiträge zur
Namenforschung N.F. 22 (1987) 162-181.

(d) Peter Jordan: Möglichkeiten einer stärkeren Berücksichtigung
slowenischer Ortsnamen in den amtlichen topographischen Karten
Österreichs, vol. 6 of Berichte und Informationen des Instituts,
Wien 1988.

From: Peter E. Raper (South Africa)

1. Since its establishment in 1937, the national names authority of South Africa, the National Place Names Committee (NPNC), has been attached to the State Department of National Education. A senior official of that Department served as Chairman and the secretariat was provided by that Department.

With a view to achieving greater autonomy the NPNC has been restructured. It now comprises experts in toponymy, and in Afrikaans, English, indigenous languages and foreign languages, as well as representatives of the South African Academy for Science and Art, the English Academy of South Africa, the Department of Posts and Telecommunications, the Directorate of Surveys and Mapping, and Transport Services. Although the secretariat will continue to be provided by the Department of National Education, the chairmanship will no longer be held by an official of that Department.

2. A list of geographical names standardized by the NPNC between the years 1978 and 1986 is at the press, but for technical reasons publication has been delayed.

As a result of changes in the orthographic rules for the Nguni languages over the years, a number of different forms have been approved by the NPNC for the same name when applied to different entities, particularly as far as the capitalization of locative prefixes is concerned. It is envisaged that the publication Official Place Names in the Republic of South Africa and in South West Africa (Pretoria 1978) will be revised, amended and enlarged, inter alia in a view to standardizing the Nguni geographical names in accordance with the most recent orthography.

4. It is imperative that resolutions of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names be implemented in South Africa. In order to bring them to the attention of as wide a readership as possible, they will be included in the Introduction to a revised and enlarged edition of the Dictionary of Southern African Place Names to be published later in 1988.

NEW FROM EAST CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE DIVISION

Report on the Activities in the Standardization of Geographical Names in Bulgaria, 1 September 1987 - 1 March 1988

A leading role in the standardization of geographical names in Bulgaria during this period has been played by the Council on Orthography and Transcription under the General Board for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre.

In the period from 1 September 1987 until the end of the year, two sessions of the Council took place, at which the lists of geographical names of Indonesia and of the United States have been examined and adopted.

At those meetings the Council was informed by the representatives of associated organizations on the measures taken by them to enforce implementation of the Council's decisions. The Council reviewed all the cases where its recommendations and instructions were not strictly observed and took necessary actions to accelerate the process of geographical names standardization by lecturing on the subject in various publishing houses, by undertaking instructional sessions with professional translators and by publishing articles in newspapers and magazines.

In line with this objective the lists of transcribed geographical names of Argentina, Canada, Iceland and Japan were published and circulated to users in September 1987.

Another significant step for future activities in the standardization of geographical names is the preparation of new general instructions on their transcription and orthography, together with toponymic guidelines. These instructions have been issued as a result of joint efforts by the specialists of the General Board for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre and of the Bulgarian Language Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Science. While preparing this important normative document, the experts followed the existing language norms of Bulgaria, taking into account recommendations and resolutions of United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names, as well as the already established traditions in this field. These new General Instructions have already been approved by the Scientific Council of the Bulgarian Language Institute and were to be adopted by the Council on Orthography and Transcription end-March this year.

Under the 1988 plan of activities in the standardization of geographical names for 1988 all the lists of foreign geographical names which have been published so far are to be brought into conformity with the new Instructions.

The most important task for 1988 will be the preparation and publication of the Dictionary of Foreign Geographical Names and of the List of Exonyms in Bulgarian. This task is to be accomplished by a group of specialists in linguistics, cartography, geography and history who represent the Council on Orthography and Transcription, various agencies, organizations and institutions.

From: A. Kotsonis (Cyprus)

1. Compilation of new maps by the Department of Lands and Surveys with the co-operation of the Committee as regards the Standardization of Geographical Names. These are:

- (a) Cyprus Town Plans. Street Names Map of Lemesos Town, multicolour edition, in two sheets of scale 1:7,500, under the national series No. D.L.S. 32,

- (b) Aeronautical Chart ICAO 1:500,000 numbered 2426-A CYPRUS on the basis of international specifications.

Both editions, in English, are based on the Romanisation System approved by the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and will be published soon.

2. Compilation of a glossary under the title "Local Generic Terms in Cyprus Geographical Names".

Each entry in the glossary will comprise the term in Greek script, transliteration of the term in the Roman Alphabet, a short explanation in Greek and English and an example of its use as a Toponym in the Roman Alphabet. It is estimated that the glossary, which will contain about 700 entries, will be published in 1989.

3. Compilation of Volume II of the Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus which will contain the names of streets within the built-up areas amounting to about 15,000. It is expected to be ready for publication within the next 2-3 years.
4. The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names is pleased to announce that it will issue free of charge the Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus Volume I, Nicosia, 1987, to official geographical names authorities and cartographic organizations, on request.

From: Ondrej Michalko (Czechoslovakia)

Activities in the field of standardization of geographical names in
Czechoslovakia

In late 1987 the Slovak Office of Geodesy and Cartography issued a publication "Geografické názvy okresu Banská Bystrica" (Geographical Names of District of Banská Bystrica) containing 4000 standardized names of objects based on state maps at scale 1:10,000.

In 1988 the same agency published "Názvy vrchov a dolín Slovenskej socialistickej republiky" (Names of Mounts and Valleys of the Slovak Socialist Republic) containing 5,830 standardized names of hills, saddles and valleys based on the maps at the scale 1:50,000. These geographical names are localized into geomorphological units according to principles applied by the Geographical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and based on modern scientific knowledge. The publication contains also standardized forms of the names of these geomorphological units themselves. The limits of the units are indicated on a supporting map at the scale 1:500,000.

The second updated edition of the joint publication of the Czech Office of Geodesy and Cartography and the Slovak Office of Geodesy and Cartography "Jména států a jejich územních částí" (The List of state names and their territorial parts) is now in press. All changes of standardized names from the first edition of 1982 are indicated in the new list.

NEWS FROM THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN DIVISION (OTHER THAN ARABIC)

From: Naftali Kadmon (Israel)

Toponymic Activities in Israel (Sept. 1987 - Feb. 1988)

1. The "Survey of Israel", National Institute for Geodesy, Cartography and Geographic Information, conducted an in-house training course in toponymy for new civil-service employees to reinforce and in time replace the toponymic staff members nearing retirement age.

2. The publication "Transliteration of Geographical Names in the Maps of Israel" (Cartographic Papers No. 9, Survey of Israel, P.O. Box 14171, Tel-Aviv 61141) was reprinted. This brief text of 20 pages by N. Kadmon and M. Talmi is printed in Hebrew, but includes an English abstract. Moreover, the tables of transliteration from Hebrew into Latin script and from Arabic into Hebrew, are all bilingual.
3. The annual course in toponymy offered by the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Prof. N. Kadmon), as reported at the 5th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, was again held in 1987. Some graduates of this course, among those who completed their undergraduate studies, found employment with (1) a private publishing firm in Jerusalem specializing in atlases and maps, (2) Government departments involved with mapping and geographical names, (3) the National Tourist Board, (4) as teachers. This course will again be held in 1988/89. At the 5th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names Israel proposed holding a world-wide survey of training courses in toponymy.
4. At the 13th General Assembly of the International Cartographic Association (ICA), held in Morelia, Mexico, in October 1987, Israel presented a paper titled "The Standardisation of Cartographic Typography". This advocated co-operation between UNGEGN, the chief authority on geographical names, and ICA, the authority on maps and mapping, in order to reach standard machine-readable and computer-decipherable formats for map script.

5. Work proceeded at the Jerusalem publishing firm of "Carta" on the computerized translation of the Times Atlas of the World into Hebrew. This involves automated transcription, transliteration and translation of geographical names, as the case may demand. A sample sheet had been displayed at the 5th Conference in Montreal, August 1987.
6. Court cases. A minority of the inhabitants of the village of Shibli, established by the tribe of esh-Shibli in Northern Israel, with the name ratified by the Government Names Commission, demanded that the village name be changed after their clan name to Subeih. The High Court before which the case was brought upheld the decision of the Government Names Commission. A similar ruling was previously handed down in the case of Si'on vs. the Government Names Commission re the name of the village Newé-Zuf.

NEWS FROM THE NORDEN DIVISION

From: Hans Ringstam (Sweden)

Activities related to the standardization of geographical names during the period 1 September 1987 - 1 March 1988

The Place Names Advisory Board which is administered by the National Land Survey (NLS) has met three times during the period. Place names in bilingual

areas are one of the subjects treated, with particular reference to Tornedalen, with both Finnish and Swedish-speaking population. The NLS will whenever feasible enter two names on the maps of Tornedalen, i.e. one in Finnish and one in Swedish. However, in the future real estate register only one name will be used either Finnish or Swedish. The Advisory Board had discussed other matters connected with the United Nations work on the standardization of geographical names, one of them being the question of exonyms in Sweden.

A symposium on current issues with regard to place name management was held from 8 to 10 March 1988. It was organized by the Institute of Dialect, Place Name and Folklore Research, Göteborg, in co-operation with the Department of Scandinavian Languages, Göteborg University. Among the topics were: current issues within the framework of international activities in place name management, place name and minority languages, place names in the real estate register, pronunciation dictionary of place names, etc. Furthermore, the NLS place names data base for the 1:50.000 Topographic Map was demonstrated.

A new pronunciation dictionary of place names is planned to be published during 1988. It will include about 3,000 place names, often giving one local and one standard pronunciation.

The existing data base for the topographic map contains approximately 450,000 place names. The names of certain areas like municipalities, or names with a certain second element can be retrieved from the base as lists.

NEWS FROM THE ROMANO-HELLENIC DIVISION

From: Maria da Graça Magalhaes Caldeira (Portugal)

During the period of 1 September 1987 - 1 March 1988 the Portuguese Government approved the proposal of the institution of the National Toponymic Committee holding in the Instituto Geográfico e Cadastral (I.G.C.) of Portugal. At present we are making every effort to organize the Committee. We hope it will be active in the near future. Concerning future activities it is possible that in the academic year 1988/89 Toponymy will be included in the training course in cartography at the I.G.C. The listing of national geographical names has begun.

NEWS FROM THE USSR DIVISION

No communication has been received from the USSR Division during the reported period. However, it came to the Secretariat's attention that as reported by a leading USSR newspaper "Literaturnaya Gazeta"^{*}, (No. 14 of 6 April 1988) a Council on Toponymy has been established within the Soviet Cultural Fund. Dr. V.P. Neroznak, Deputy Secretary, Department of Language and Literature, USSR Academy of Science has been appointed as the Chairman of the Council.

The Council, which is advisory, comprises both leading scientists in linguistics and geography, as well as prominent public figures like journalists, writers and film actors.

The primary aim of the Council is to establish scientific principles for the restoration of historical place names - lost, changed without proper reason or unknown to the population. The Council is planning to prepare the "Red Book" of original (primordial) historical names and will also work on drafting legislation to protect these names. The intention is to incorporate in this new legislation a principle "new name - to new object only".

NEWS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM DIVISION

From: P.J. Woodman (United Kingdom)

1. The Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain

Already available in microfiche, this work has now been published in hardback. It contains some 256,000 geographical names, in a single alphabetical listing, taken from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map series. It is published jointly by the Ordnance Survey and the Macmillan Press Ltd. (ISBN 0-333-44811-1).

The information is arranged in terms of seven columns: -

- 1) geographical names;

- 2) county (sometimes abbreviated);
- 3) National Grid reference identifying position to within 1.4 km;
- 4) Latitude } both given to 0.1 of a minute of the
- 5) Longitude } centre point of the relevant National Grid Square
- 6) Feature code: Seven different codes are used relating to the
relevant 1:50,000 sheet(s)
- 7) sheet number

It is important to note that only the hardback version contains latitude and longitude: this information is not provided in the microfiche version.

2. Progress in the application of Welsh on Ordnance Survey maps

After discussions between the Ordnance Survey and the Welsh Office, the following decisions have been made concerning use of the Welsh language on Ordnance Survey maps:

- a) It is not considered feasible to produce Welsh language borders on large-scale maps of 1:1,250 and 1:2,500. Instead, an information leaflet in Welsh showing this border information will be produced;
- b) Welsh language legend leaflets will be issued for the 1:25,000 (Pathfinder) 1:50,000 (Landranger) and 1:250,000 (Routemaster) series;
- c) Future revisions of the 1:50,000 Landranger and Outdoor leisure maps of Wales will include Welsh equivalents for towns and villages, and a Welsh language sheet title will be added to both the face and cover of the map;

- d) Welsh equivalents for towns and villages will not be added to the 1:250,000 (Routemaster) series or the 1:625,000 (Routeplanner) map as these scales are too small to permit this addition without loss of clarity.

3. The mountains of Central Asia

In October 1987, the Royal Geographical Society and the Mount Everest Foundation completed the joint compilation of a 1:3,000,000 map and associated gazetteer with the above title to be published by Macmillan London Ltd. (ISBN 0-333-39600-6).

The area covered by this publication includes the Tien Shan, the Kunlun Shan, the Tibet-Qinghai Plateau, and the Pamir, Karakoram and Himalaya ranges. The gazetteer contains entries for approximately 6,000 features, of which about one-third are shown on the accompanying map. Those names which are shown on the map are indicated in the gazetteer by means of an asterisk. Names within China are given in their pinyin spellings.

The gazetteer is arranged in terms of five columns:

- 1) geographical name;
- 2) feature designation code (24 different codes are used);
- 3) area/country code;
- 4) latitude (to the nearest tenth of a degree);
- 5) longitude (to the nearest tenth of a degree):

There is also a glossary of generic terms, amounting to 110 entries from 12 different languages.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/CANADA DIVISION

From: Helen Kerfoot (Canada)

REPORT FROM CANADA / DOSSIER PRÉSENTÉ PAR LE CANADA

1. SEPTEMBER 1987 - MARCH 1988 / SEPTEMBRE 1987 - MARS 1988

During the period September 1, 1987 to March 1, 1988, the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN) has comprised 23 members - 12 representing the provinces and territories, 10 representing federal departments and 1 as chairman of an advisory committee.

★

Geographical name questions may be directed to the:

CPCGN Secretariat
650 - 615 Booth Street
Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0E9

★

Entre le 1er septembre 1987 et le 1er mars 1988, le Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques (CPCNG) se composait de 23 membres dont 12 représentaient les provinces et territoires, 10 représentaient des ministères fédéraux et 1 agissait comme président d'un Comité consultatif.

★

Les questions relatives aux noms géographiques peuvent être adressées au:

Secrétariat du CPCNG
650 - 615, rue Booth
Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0E9

★

1.1 CANADIAN MEETINGS / RÉUNIONS CANADIENNES

The CPCGN, chaired by Dr. Jean-Paul Drolet, held its 1987 annual meeting in New Brunswick on October 2. At this time, two advisory committees (Toponymy Research, and Glaciological and Alpine Nomenclature) met to discuss names issues, ranging from the recognition of native geographical names, transboundary names and alternate names to generic terminology and delineation of mountain hierarchy units.

Le CPCNG, présidé par Monsieur Jean-Paul Drolet, a tenu sa réunion annuelle le 2 octobre 1987, au Nouveau-Brunswick. À cette réunion, deux Comités consultatifs (Recherche toponymique et Nomenclature glaciologique et alpine) ont étudié des questions de nomenclature, telles que la reconnaissance des noms géographiques autochtones, les noms transfrontaliers, les noms alternatifs, la terminologie des génériques et la délimitation de la hiérarchie des chaînes de montagnes.

1.2 PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS

Publications of the CPCGN or its members / Publications du CPCNG ou de ses membres:

- **La toponymie des Attikameks** (ethnie amérindienne du Québec), Commission de toponymie du Québec
- **Terminologie géographique de la toponymie québécoise**, Commission de toponymie du Québec
- **Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names 1987 / Répertoire des noms d'entités sous-marines 1987**, Canadian Hydrographic Service / Service hydrographique du Canada

Brochures / Dépliants:

- . **Passes and peaks: a guide to geographical names in the Crowsnest Pass, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism**
- . **David Thompson country: a guide to geographical names, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism**
- . **The role of the Advisory Committee on Names for Undersea and Maritime Features in offshore regions of Canada / Le rôle du Comité consultatif des noms d'entités sous-marines et marines dans les régions extra-côtières du Canada, Canadian Hydrographic Service / Service hydrographique du Canada**

Newsletters / Communiqués:

- **CANOMA**, 13(2), December/décembre 1987 (News and views on Canadian toponymy / Nouvelles et commentaires concernant la toponymie du Canada), CPCGN Secretariat / Secrétariat du CPCNG
- **Le toponyme**, 5(2) septembre 1987; 5(3) janvier 1988 (Bulletin trimestriel d'information sur les noms de lieux du Québec), Commission de toponymie du Québec
- **Origine de:** septembre 1987: Québec; janvier 1988: Trois-Rivières (Bulletin trimestriel des décisions de la CTQ, des nouvelles et sujets toponymiques), Commission de toponymie du Québec

Other toponymic publications of interest include: / Autres publications d'intérêt toponymique:

- **Gazetteer of Inuit place names of Nunavik (Quebec, Canada) / Le Répertoire toponymique inuit du Nunavik (Québec, Canada)** / ᐃᐅᐃᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ (ᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅ, ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ) , Avataq Cultural Institute, Kuujjuaq, Québec

- . Ozade-Mnótha Wapta Makóchí: Stoney place names, Chiniki Band Council, Morley, Alberta

1.3 TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND COURSES / FORMATION EN TOPONYMIE

- . Stage de formation en gestion toponymique au Panama

En octobre 1987, M. Henri Dorion, président de la Commission de toponymie du Québec, a participé au stage de formation en gestion toponymique organisé avec l'appui de l'Institut panaméricain de géographie et d'histoire. Les documents de référence qu'ont utilisés les participants comprenaient entre autres la version espagnole de la *Méthodologie des inventaires toponymiques*, de même que la version espagnole d'une vidéocassette produite également par la Commission de toponymie et portant sur la méthodologie des inventaires toponymiques.

- . Projet de coopération entre le Québec et le Maroc

Aux fins de la préparation du *Répertoire toponymique du Maroc*, les autorités toponymiques de ces deux États ont convenu de tenir deux stages de formation d'une durée d'un mois: l'un, d'un fonctionnaire marocain au Québec, et l'autre, d'un fonctionnaire québécois au Maroc. Ils s'attacheront principalement à la maîtrise des normes internationales dans la préparation des nomenclatures nationales et leur informatisation.

- . Northwest Territories - native trainees

The Northwest Territories has started a combined toponymic and oral tradition training programme for three native people from Canada's arctic and sub-arctic regions. The twelve-month programme will provide a background in oral tradition research and in toponymic field and archival research.

- . Cours d'introduction à la toponymie, Université Laval, Québec

Au cours du trimestre d'automne 1987, les professeurs Cécyle Trépanier et Paul Labrecque du Département de géographie de l'Université Laval ont dispensé, au niveau du baccalauréat, un cours de culture et de formation générale intitulé *Introduction à la toponymie*. Les objectifs généraux étaient: 1) de montrer l'importance de la toponymie dans l'analyse géographique des paysages naturels et anthropiques; 2) d'introduire les notions fondamentales en toponymie; 3) de permettre à l'étudiant(e) d'appliquer les notions théoriques reçues au moyen d'exercices ou de travaux pratiques appropriés. Les objectifs spécifiques du cours ont consisté: 1) à présenter les divers instruments de recherche en toponymie; 2) à apprendre à l'étudiant(e) comment préparer et réaliser une enquête sur le terrain, grâce à une méthodologie des inventaires toponymiques. D'une durée de 15 semaines, à raison de 3 heures par semaine, ce cours de 3 crédits comprenait des leçons magistrales et des travaux pratiques.

1.4 DECISIONS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

- . In 1987, the CPCGN welcomed the creation of a Yukon Geographical Names Board. The board noted two commemorative names among its first decisions: **Annie Ned Creek** in honour of Mrs. Annie Ned, an Indian Elder from Takhini, and a river in the Frances Lake region, Yukon, after a well-known (now deceased) historian, Alan Innes-Taylor.

2. FUTURE PLANS

2.1 Publications in preparation for 1988 / Publications prévues en 1988

- . **Place-names of Alberta - Volume I: "Mountains, parks and foothills"**, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism
- . **Seigneuries et fiefs du Québec. Nomenclature et cartographie**, Commission de toponymie du Québec
- . **Toponymie des Naskapis**, Commission de toponymie du Québec
- . **Premier supplément au Répertoire toponymique du Québec 1987**, Commission de toponymie du Québec
- . **Gazetteer of Canada: Ontario / Répertoire géographique du Canada: Ontario**
Gazetteer of Canada: Alberta / Répertoire géographique du Canada: Alberta
Gazetteer of Canada: Yukon / Répertoire géographique du Canada : Yukon
CPCGN and Canada Centre for Mapping (Ottawa) / CPCNG et Centre canadien de cartographie (Ottawa)

2.2 Toponymic projects in 1988 / Projets toponymiques prévus en 1988

- . **Stage de formation en gestion toponymique à Québec, 7-21 août 1988**

Après ceux de Cisarua (Indonésie), de Rabat (Maroc) et du Panama, un stage de formation en toponymie. offert en langue française cette fois, se tiendra à Québec (Canada), du 7 au 21 août 1988. Le stage, qui devrait réunir une vingtaine de participants -- des personnes impliquées dans la gestion des noms de lieux venant d'établissements nationaux responsables des noms géographiques ou d'établissements cartographiques nationaux responsables de la normalisation des noms géographiques -- est organisé conjointement par le Département de la coopération technique pour le développement des Nations Unies, par le Comité permanent canadien des noms géographiques et par la Commission de toponymie du Québec. Le stage concentrera l'attention des participants sur les problèmes de la normalisation nationale, et en particulier sur la collecte des noms sur le terrain et dans les services compétents.

Les personnes intéressées à recevoir de plus amples informations sur ce stage sont priées d'adresser leur demande à

Monsieur Max C. de Henseler
Secrétaire
Groupe d'experts des Nations Unies pour les noms géographiques
Bureau DC 1-0724
Nations Unies
New York, NY. 10017

. Yukon Geographical Names Board

A meeting, in association with the Northwest Territories, will be held at Eagle Plains in the Dempster Corridor, for full consultation with the Elders from Dawson, Old Crow and Fort MacPherson. Efforts will be made to prioritize indigenous names for features, to enable appropriate naming and renaming. Many sites in this corridor are of historical significance and add to the character of the land-base from an indigenous perspective.

. Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism

A Western Canadian Historic Map Exhibit will be presented at the Provincial Museum of Alberta, Edmonton, October 1 - November 13, 1988. A catalogue is being prepared in conjunction with the exhibit.

. Secretary of State / Secrétariat d'État du Canada

A new glossary of Generic terms in Canada's geographical names / Génériques en usage dans les noms géographiques du Canada was published and introduced to the participants of the United Nations Conference in 1987.

Secretary of State is planning the preparation of a Russian language version of the glossary during 1988.

Un nouveau glossaire des Génériques en usage dans les noms géographiques du Canada / Generic terms in Canada's geographical names a été publié en 1987 et présenté aux participants de la Conférence des Nations Unies.

Le Secrétariat d'État entrevoit la préparation d'une version russe du glossaire pour 1988.

. Ontario Geographic Names Programme

. As a start towards developing policies and methodology for the treatment of native toponymy, Ontario has initiated an in-depth study in the Temagami-Gowganda-Onaping region of Northeastern Ontario. A map will be published, together with a historical/geographical report on the Ojibway travel routes and toponymy of the area between 1840 and 1900.

- Ontario has commenced a survey of contemporary, locally-used French language toponymy in the province. A field study is currently in progress in Eastern Ontario; the results will affect the future direction of the Franco-Ontarian names study and associated name policies.
 - Newfoundland Geographical Names Board and Canadian Parks Service
- A toponymy study in Gros Morne National Park is anticipated this summer, as a cooperative venture to address and resolve names questions that require the acceptance of two names authorities before receiving official recognition.
- Toponymy Data Bases / Bases de données toponymiques

During 1988, the hardware and software of the National Toponymic Data Base are to be upgraded, giving improved processing capabilities and greater flexibility of data manipulation.

En 1988, le matériel et le logiciel de la base nationale de données toponymiques seront perfectionnés afin de faciliter le traitement des données et permettre une plus grande flexibilité dans la saisie des données.

Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia are also in design and/or implementation phases of establishing their own provincial automated toponymic data bases.

L'Ontario, l'Alberta et la Colombie-Britannique sont présentement impliqués à différentes étapes dans l'établissement de leur propre base de données toponymiques.

3. SOME OTHER PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM 1987 / QUELQUES PUBLICATIONS DISPONIBLES DEPUIS 1987

- Principles and procedures of geographical naming / Principes et directives pour la dénomination des lieux, CPCGN Secretariat / Secrétariat du CPCNG
- Répertoire toponymique du Québec 1987
Guide toponymique du Québec
Guide odonymique du Québec
Bibliographie toponymique du Québec
Genre des noms de cours d'eau du Québec
Commission de toponymie du Québec
- A manual for the field collection of geographical names (A translation and adaptation of Méthodologie des inventaires toponymiques) Ontario Geographic Names Board and/et Commission de toponymie du Québec
- Videocassettes / vidéocassettes - La méthodologie des inventaires toponymiques (versions française, espagnole et anglaise) Commission de toponymie du Québec

From: Richard R. Randall (United States)

Report of the United States of America on Work in Geographic Names since the
Fifth United Nations Conference on Geographical Names

The United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN), the official body to standardize geographic names for official United States purposes, worked on the following programs:

1. For the domestic United States, The Board reviewed and accepted names of about 200 places. This action included proposals for new names of unnamed features, proposals for changing names of named features, and decisions to approve one of two different names for specific features. With the support of the US Geological Survey, the Board published a gazetteer of the state of Arizona and continued work on gazetteers for New Jersey and North Dakota. These publications show names on standard topographic map series of the United States at 1:24,000 and include names approved by the Board and names of other features (such as cemeteries, schools, and bridges) which the Board does not standardize. The Board also revised its guidelines on principles, policies, and procedures for

domestic names. In response to a growing need for information about indigenous American cultures, the Board established a committee on Native American Placenames. During the period, BGN staff answered about 1300 inquiries from private citizens, state and local officials, and federal offices.

2. In September 1987, BGN members and staff attended the Eleventh Western States Geographic Names Conference. At this event, names authorities in several states discussed and resolved questions of mutual concern. State and federal authorities further solidified their working relationship by collaborating on issues of common interest.
3. The Board also continued its work on names in foreign areas. In addition to publishing gazetteers for Ecuador and the Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands, toponymists carried out research on other gazetteers and various publications, including a new romanization guide, political entities of the world, abbreviations of countries (principally for cartographic use), and a gazetteer of conventional names. The United States collaborated with the Pan American Institute on Geography and History to sponsor a two-week course on geographic names attended by 18 students from 9 countries. Principal instructors were Dr. Richard R. Randall, Executive Secretary of BGN and chairman of the PAIGH Working Group on Gazetteers and Geographic Names, and Mr. Henry Dorion, President of the

Commission de Toponymie du Quebec (Canada) and Chairman of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. BGN advisory committees applied names to approximately 150 newly discovered features in Antarctica and on ocean floors. The Board collaborated with other national and international naming authorities to assure maximum standardization of such names. Regular communications with the International Hydrographic Organization were especially important in treatment of undersea-feature names.

A representative of the Thai Royal Survey Department participated in a six-week BGN course on names.

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED BY OBSERVERS

From: The International Hydrographic Bureau

1. IHO/IOC GEBCO Sub-committee on geographical names and nomenclature of ocean bottom features.

During the period September 1987-March 1988, the Secretariat has received three new proposed names for undersea features, accompanied by supporting material, which have been circulated to the members of the GEBCO Sub-Committee for consideration.

2. International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)

The IHB is revising the draft working document (March 1985) of the "Gazetteer of geographical names of undersea features shown on the GEBCO 5th Edition and on the small scale IHO international chart series". This revised draft of the Gazetteer was to be submitted to the Sixth session of the GEBCO Officers, "Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, Wormley (UK), 14-15 April 1988.

The revision includes:

- i) new geographical names adopted by the Sixth and Seventh meetings of the GEBCO Sub-Committee on geographical names and nomenclature of ocean bottom features;
- ii) amendments decided by the GEBCO Sub-Committee to spelling or geographical position of several existing geographical names;
- iii) addition of geographical names shown on new INT charts or new editions of INT charts at small scale published after 1985;
- iv) addition of references to the USBGN* Gazetteer of Undersea Features;
- v) addition of the IHO/IOC publication "Standardization of undersea feature names: Guidelines - Proposal Form - Terminology".

*United States Board on Geographical Names