

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 7 May 1968, at 4.20 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. BILLNER

Sweden

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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CARTOGRAPHY (E/4456 and Corr.1, E/4477, E/CONF.52/4, E/CONF.53/3) (continued)

Mr. AKSIN (Turkey) said that the useful work done at the Fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East and at the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had been of direct relevance to development.

The Turkish Government was a strong supporter of regional meetings, which provided a link between activities at the national and international levels. It therefore endorsed the recommendation that a Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East be convened in Iran in October 1970.

The United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names had not only identified a number of problems but had also evolved principles which would facilitate their solution. Its recommendations to Governments provided **useful guidelines for** work at the national level and prepared the ground for international co-operation. The Conference could therefore be regarded as a milestone in international co-operation in the standardization of geographical names.

In connexion with the recommendations requiring action by the Council, his delegation thought it unnecessary at that stage to create a United Nations permanent committee of experts on geographical names. Much still remained to be done to achieve standardization at the national level and implement the recommendations of the Conference. Although important, the standardization of geographical names was a limited subject. For the time being, the functions to be entrusted to the proposed permanent committee could be performed by the ad hoc group of experts set up by the Conference, whose composition would have to be reviewed and possibly expanded to achieve a more balanced geographical and linguistic representation. If, in addition, the Secretariat strengthened its information and documentation activities, the needs envisaged by the Conference would be met.

His delegation agreed that it would be useful to hold a second conference on the standardization of geographical names. In view of the differences of opinion on the subject, the date for such a conference should be decided upon by the Secretariat in consultation with the ad hoc group of experts.

(Mr. Aksin, Turkey)

Regional and sub-regional meetings should continue to be held, with the assistance of the United Nations. There was also scope for technical assistance in the training of personnel and for the provision of expert services.

Mr. MUZIK (Czechoslovakia) said that the States participating in the Conference held at Geneva in September 1967 had been able to acquaint themselves with current activities concerned with geographical names and take the first steps towards their standardization. In view of the importance of geographical names in international contacts of all kinds, Czechoslovakia supported the creation of a United Nations permanent committee of experts on geographical names. It also endorsed the request made by the Conference that the United Nations Secretariat should continue to act as the central agency to follow up the clearing-house functions for geographical names. The clearing-house functions and the activities of the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names should follow the principle of universality and non-discrimination. All States should be invited to participate in the Second Conference, which should deal with international standardization and co-operation as well as national standardization. The Czechoslovak delegation assumed that the Second Conference would be held at Geneva; it shared the view expressed by the Secretary-General (E/4477, para. 10) that the Conference should not be held before the second quarter of 1971.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

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