

United Nations
ECONOMIC
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Nations Unies
CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
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UNRESTRICTED

E/CART/SR 5
28 March 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON CARTOGRAPHY
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Wednesday, 23 March 1949, at 2.30 p.m.

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Consideration of the order of the items on the agenda (Cartography/W.6)

Chairman: Mr. R.H. RANDALL

Consulting Experts:

Mr. R.L. BROWN
Mr. C. LEITE DE CASTRO
Mr. W. SCHERMERHORN
Mr. R. VERLAINE

Expert from Government of Brazil:

Mr. A.H. de MATTOS

Representatives from Specialized Agencies:

Mr. S.V. ARNALDO

(United Nations Educational
Scientific and Cultural
Organization)

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Representatives from Specialized Agencies:(continued)

Mr. E.R.L. PEAKE	(International Civil Aviation Organization)
Mr. G.E. HILL	(World Health Organization)

Representatives from Inter-governmental organizations:

Mr. C.L. NICHOLS	(International Hydrographic Bureau)
Mr. S.W. BOGGS	(Pan-American Institute of Geography and History)
Mr. A. SIMONPIETRI	

Representatives from International Non-governmental Organizations:

Mr. H.W. HEMPLE	(International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, International Council of Scientific Unions, International Federation of Surveyors)
Mr. O.S. READING	(International Society of Photogrammetry)
Mr. M.S. WRIGHT	(American Congress on Surveying and Mapping)

Secretariat:

Mr. G. DURAN	Department of Social Affairs
Mr. T.L. TCHANG	Secretary of the Committee

REVIEW OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THE WORK OF WHICH IS CONNECTED WITH CARTOGRAPHY. (discussion continued)
(Cartography/W.4)

Mr. WRIGHT (American Congress on Surveying and Mapping) briefly explained the history of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. Founded in 1942, the organization numbered over 1100 members from thirty-seven countries in the Americas. The Congress had set up permanent committees on publications, on annual meetings and on membership. It comprised four technical divisions on cartography, control surveys, property surveys and surveying instruments. The ACSM was a non-profit association organized to advance the sciences of surveying and mapping in their several branches, in the interests of those who used maps and surveys and

/those who

those who made them. It aimed to establish a central source of reference for its members, to contribute to public education in the use of surveys and maps, and to encourage the prosecution of basic surveying and mapping programmes.

As indicated in the outline of the organization and functions of the ACSM contained in Cartography W.4 it published a series of quarterly journals and scientific papers.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Wright for his concise review of the structure and functions of the ACSM.

He pointed out that one of the main purposes of the organization was to emphasize the needs of map-users. Through its work it was hoped that proper consideration would be given to the aspects of the consumer's need for cartographic information.

Mr. SCHERMERHORN wondered whether the ACSM might not be compared to European land surveyors' organizations and associations such as the International Federation of Surveyors.

Mr. WRIGHT (ACSM) pointed out that the ACSM covered all phases of surveying and mapping. Only a small percentage of its members were not actively engaged in producing charts and maps.

Bureau for International Map of the World

Mr. DURAN (Secretariat) remarked that the Central Bureau had informed the Secretary-General that it was unable to send a representative to the meetings of the Committee of Experts on Cartography. In the absence of an official representative, Mr. Brown would hold a watching brief for the organization.

Mr. BROWN explained that the International Map had been born a few years earlier as the result of an effort to encourage the production of the millionth map of the world in the same cartographic terms. A number of sheets had been produced, the work on the map being channelled through the Central Bureau. There was no formal organization;

/the Bureau

the Bureau confined itself to carrying on correspondence with members, exchanging information, compiling an annual report and giving advice on sheets prepared by member nations. The work had been interrupted at the outbreak of war in 1939 and activities had not been resumed on a large scale since the close of hostilities. It was the intention of the Central Bureau to discuss the question of continuing work on the map at the forthcoming Meeting of Geography in Lisbon.

It might prove that some nations no longer wished to collaborate on the millionth map since the international aeronautical map on the same scale was available for many areas. In certain unsurveyed regions of the world, the international aeronautical map would prove adequate for current needs. In highly developed areas, however, an international topographic map in the same cartographic terms would still be required, and for that reason, Mr. Brown was of the opinion that the production of the millionth map would have to be continued.

The CHAIRMAN agreed that while aeronautical charts on the 1/1,000,000 scale could be used for large portions of the planet where great detail was not required, the question would undoubtedly arise as to whether topographic maps on the millionth scale should not be compiled for areas about which much data was available.

Mr. BROWN explained that the Central Bureau functioned in a different way from the ICAO. In the case of the International Millionth Map, the actual work was done by the member nations covering the various areas. The symbols used by ICAO, which had been designed primarily for air navigation, differed from those used by the Central Bureau.

The Bureau had done very little work in proofing sheets. The maps sent in had been commented on and returned to the member nation free of charge. If, however, the project should develop on a large scale, the task would become enormous.

Mr. BOGGS (Pan-American Institute of Geography and History) remarked that the question of the millionth map of the world would undoubtedly come up for discussion in Lisbon. It would be one of the most important items on the agenda of the conference.

/The CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN thought that the Committee should consider what the outcome of the project would be.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mr. BOGGS (PAIGH) suggested that item 7 of the provisional agenda, which covered the general field of cartography, should be considered next, and that thereafter the Committee might break down into working parties on specific subjects to prepare the parts of the report.

Mr. BROWN, on the other hand, considered the Committee's primary obligation to be the stimulation of interest in cartography and of the realization of the need for proper topographical mapping of the world. Separately from that broad task, it could first consider the restricted problem of the use of maps and charts within the United Nations organization, and offer advice on how the demand should be met. But in the broader field nothing would be achieved without the active interest and support of governments. The question of the centralization or decentralization of world cartography would logically follow the consideration of stimulating interest. With respect to item 7, he thought that problems related to the study of modern cartography were outside the purview of the Committee and should be dealt with by some technical organization or organizations at present in existence or to be set up.

Mr. SIMONPIETRI (PAIGH) and Mr. SCHERMERHORN agreed generally with Mr. Brown's view, with the reservation that recommendations concerning cartographic services of the United Nations should contain only broad outlines. Mr. Schermerhorn considered that emphasis should be laid on the inadequacy of the maps at present available and that public opinion should be shown how much was not known about the earth's surface.

Simultaneously a review should be made of the services available and organizations at present active in topography, together with proposals for co-ordination and exchange of data and instruments. Consideration should then be given to the supra-national aspect of cartography, with

/special

special regard to regional control, similar to that established by the Commission on Cartography of PAIGH.

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In a review of the work already done by the Committee and a forecast of its future objectives and methods, the CHAIRMAN singled out the following established facts:

- 1) the world was unsurveyed;
- 2) the United Nations had no cartographic service which could adequately provide the maps and charts required or to be required as the background for the execution of its work and the conduct of its deliberations;
- 3) the United Nations could help to achieve the cartographic survey of great areas of the world, but it was for the Committee to recommend precisely how.

The written and oral statements had provided supplementary facts on which the Committee was to base its consideration and recommendations. It could proceed to consider concrete proposals, or else it could start considering various aspects and see what synthesis emerged. In the Chairman's opinion, the immediate task was to consider what kind of organization should be set up by the United Nations to stimulate the interest which the Committee agreed was a necessary preliminary to further action.

Mr. SIMONPIETRI (PAIGH) suggested that the Committee might start by considering various concrete proposals which had been made by some specialized agencies in written and oral statements.

In response to a request for a general definition of the objectives of the Committee, the CHAIRMAN said that its primary responsibility was to make recommendations to the Secretary-General on what the United Nations could do to help Member States to get the world mapped.

Mr. SCHERMERHORN pointed out that when the work to be done in mapping the world had been defined, it might be found that the United Nations could do nothing to carry out that work. Furthermore, in his opinion, no organization would be necessary to carry out the mapping of
/the world,

the world, since the actual work would be done by the Member States. An organization would be required only to stimulate and co-ordinate such work.

In response to a request for a further definition of the objectives of the Committee as he saw them, Mr. Schermerhorn drew up an outline which was subsequently summarized by Mr. BROWN as follows:

The Committee should

- 1) collect all available data for a world geodetic and topographic survey;
- 2) define the reasons why an adequate geodetic and topographic map of the whole world was necessary;
- 3) establish some kind of organization to ensure the stimulation of public and governmental interest in the undertaking;
- 4) list the organizations throughout the world which actually produced maps;
- 5) set a time limit for the compilation of the map of the world;
- 6) discuss and make recommendations on international co-operation in mapping the world.

Mr. READING (ISP) suggested that the Committee should select the words used in its recommendations with particular care; if the Committee made a statement to the effect that the greater part of the world was unmapped, the general public would point in surprise to the atlas of the world, which showed no blank spots. The phrase "modern surveys and the graphic presentation of information needed for modern civilization" might be more lucid and effective.

Mr. SIMONPIETRI (PAIGH), strongly supported by Mr. SCHERMERHORN, suggested that emphasis should be laid on the importance of bringing and keeping existing maps up-to-date. The guiding principle should be that the larger the scale, the shorter the period of revision. Furthermore, the Committee should consider making recommendations regarding the most suitable maximum and minimum scales to be used for the mapping of various areas or regions of the world, and should point out the positive value of using the most suitable scale.

/Mr. HEMPLE

Mr. HEMPLE (IUGG) and the CHAIRMAN supported the suggestion that the world should be divided into regions for cartographical purposes. A United Nations organization to cover the whole world would be unwieldy and impracticable, whereas the experience of PAIGH in regional cartography promised a certain degree of success.

Mr. READING (ISP) said he thought the Committee should consider how a United Nations cartographic service could help Member States to improve transportation, electric power installations etc.

Mr. BOGGS (PAIGH) proposed that, after the basic geodetic and topographic maps had been established, a secondary survey should be made of the soil, transportation, aeronautic and other maps available for the whole world.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee would be able to discuss the various aspects of its work more satisfactorily if it was provided with a written framework in the form of a revised agenda. He therefore asked the Secretariat to draw up such a framework on the basis of the statements made by Mr. SCHERMERHORN and Mr. BROWN in particular, for submission to the Committee at its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.