

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL



✓ 610695345

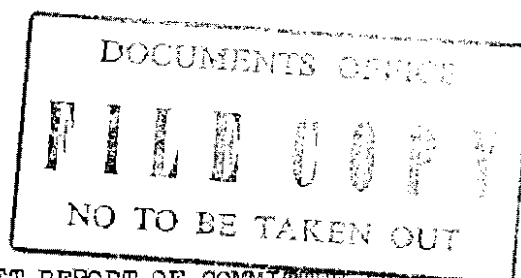
Distr.
LIMITED



E/CN.14/CART/C.4/2
20 September 1966

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Second United Nations Regional
Cartographic Conference for Africa
Tunis (Tunisia), 12-24 September 1966



DRAFT REPORT OF COMMITTEE IV

prepared by the Rapporteur

Preparation and Reproduction of maps

TU-134

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMITTEE IV
prepared by the Rapporteur
(Preparation and Reproduction of Maps)

The Terms of Reference of the Committee were to study all problems related to item 14 of the agenda, namely, technical questions on the preparation and reproduction of maps, including the standardization of geographical names and to draft resolutions for submission to the Conference.

In this connexion the Committee studied five relevant documents: Report on technical questions relating to map production and reproduction (E/CN.14/CART/197) submitted by Tunisia; Color separation and printing techniques for photomaps (E/CN.14/CART/205) submitted by the United States; Report on automated color separation (E/CN.14/CART/217) submitted by the United States; Application in the USSR of scribing map manuscripts on plastics (E/CN.14/CART/229) submitted by the USSR; and finally a Report on some problems of toponymy in topography (E/CN.14/CART/159) submitted by the United States.

The following main subjects were dealt with:

- (a) The utilization of scribing in the preparation of map plates;
- (b) The reproduction and printing of colour photomaps;
- (c) The transcription and standardization of geographical names.

The discussion on these subjects is analysed below:

(a) Utilization of scribing

The utilization of scribing for the preparation of map plates is spreading in African countries; some countries prepare all their plates by this process, on the other hand, others reserve it for contour line plates

and employ conventional methods for the other plates. The output is much increased and quality greatly improved by this process and the training of scribes is much quicker. However, in hot, dry countries, cracks sometimes appear in the plates; materials must be chosen according to climatic conditions in the area in which they are to be used. The process is well suited for retouching, but bringing the plates up to date later is perhaps slightly more complicated than with the conventional method.

In certain countries transparent sheet is used at the stage of photogrammetric plotting, either by direct engraving with the plotting machine or by manual engraving at the fair drawing stage. In field completion either the engraved sheets can be used or combined copies of these sheets.

(b) Reproduction and printing of colour photomaps

An original method making possible the printing of coloured photomaps without using an intermediate screen negative was explained by the observer from the United States.

This method, which requires relatively simple equipment, gives one or more positive films of sufficient contrast to be directly printable; these are obtained straight from the original half-tone negative and a positive mask, separated from one another by a transparent plastic sheet. The clarity of ground detail depends on the exposure time. The model submitted by the United States (minute photomap Chesser Island Quadrangle, Georgia) includes in addition to yellow-green and grey sheets obtained by this process, sheets of blue-black, buff and red obtained by manual overprinting.

By this method one can rapidly obtain a document which, in certain cases, e.g. for swampy and desert areas, gives a representation of details and nuances on the ground more vividly than a conventional map could with conventional tones and polishing.

(c) Transcription and standardization of geographical names

The Committee emphasized the importance of proper transcription and transliteration of geographical names that is as exact and standardized as possible; however, it was not considered useful to discuss the substance of this problem at the time as it is to be considered by the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names which the Economic and Social Council is to convene at Geneva especially for this purpose in August 1967. On a question of principle, the Committee stressed that each State remained the sole and final judge on geographical names for its own territory and on their official transcription. Finally, the Committee again emphasized the fact that in no case should the issue of a map be held up pending solution of the problem of the transcription of geographical names.