

SEMINAR ON AUTOMATION IN CARTOGRAPHY: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In this session representatives of several nations reported on developments and experiences in automated cartography in their respective countries. The session was chaired by ROGER TOMLINSON, representing the International Geographical Union (IGU).

In his introductory remarks ROGER TOMLINSON discussed current developments in several countries. Britain, which had an early start in the field, has since progressed rather slowly. France has basically adopted and modified the U.S. GBF/DIME System. Sweden, on the other hand, has been an independent innovator and is perhaps in the forefront of automated cartography. Little computer development has taken place in the Soviet Union, although there is a substantial need for that country to develop information systems. The Third World has yet to develop substantial automated cartographic capabilities. As yet there are no formal journals that really reflect the concern of cartographers in this field. The International Geographical Union (IGU) is compiling an inventory of computer software. This report should be available in early 1976. A software exchange program is also sponsored by the IGU. In cooperation with the United Nations, the IGU is creating teams of experts to help with the establishment of automated cartography in the developing world.

KRISTER SELANDER, of the Nordic Institute for Studies in Urban and Regional Planning - NORDPLAN, discussed recent developments in Sweden with regard to the use of computer graphics in urban and regional planning. The first part of the paper described a simple system for graphical presentation based on a Calcomp plotter and developed within an inter-Scandinavian research project. The objective of this project is the development of a prototype urban information system. Experiences and applications of the system in a pilot study were presented. The function of the Swedish color plotter (Ink Jet Plotter) was described and compared with an incremental plotter. The last part of the paper considered the problem of creating a graphical display system with a minimum of hardware dependence.

ROBERTO TORFER MARTELL represented the Mexican Studies Commission for the National Territory. This agency is a branch of the Ministry of the Presidency and is in charge of the natural

infrastructure and human resources inventory which are presented in cartographic form and made available to both the private and public sectors. The author described general developments and plans in two areas: 1) activities in the field of photogrammetry, photointerpretation, and geodesy; and 2) the development of a geographic data base and software capacity. His paper is entitled "Automation and Cartography at the Mexican Studies Commission for the National Territory."

MANUEL REJON NUNEZ, representing the Geographical and Statistical Society of Mexico, discussed the cartographic activities of that organization. He described an historical atlas of Mexico City which will be published shortly. The atlas will analyze the four epochs of growth of Mexico City from 1300 to the present and will include maps of the Aztec Empire, maps of the Spanish Conquest, maps of the Revolution, and maps of the present day.

JOSE KLEBER FIALHO of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) submitted a paper entitled "Results of the Application of Computerized Cartography in Brazil." His paper explained the components of the Brazilian cartographic system, its activities and products, and described the software developed to support automated cartography in that country.