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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Dual Distribution

DRAFT REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE
Chapter II
RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (in part)
(COMMITTEE III)

RESOLUTION 9

The Conference,

Recognizes the modified general system currently being officially employed in the transcription of geographical names from Thai characters into roman, and

Notes the application of such system for the official bilingual map of Thailand,

Further notes that there is no competing system for the romanization of Thai,

Recommends the adoption of the modified general system of the Royal Institute (which is set out in E/CONF.53/L.20) as the international system for romanization of Thai geographical names.

RESOLUTION 10

The Conference,

Recognizing that modern practice has come to require the rendition of Arabic alphabet geographical names in terms of standard, that is, classical forms,

Recommends that Arabic-speaking countries provide as soon as possible complete documentation for all geographical names, including the provision of all vowels and the notation of unvowelled and double consonants by means of the Arabic diacritical marks such as vowel points, shaddahs, hamzahs and sukuns.

RESOLUTION 11

The Conference,

Noting the romanization system currently being employed in the transliteration of names for the official romanized maps of Libya, Saudi Arabia, etc., and

Noting also the different romanization system being used in the current mapping of the Lebanon, Syria, etc., and

Recognizing the variety of systems being used in other Arabic-speaking countries,

Recommends that those Arabic countries who intend producing romanized maps or gazetteers for official use investigate the possibility of agreeing on a single system for the romanization of Arabic geographical names for official use in all Arabic-speaking countries. Alternatively, if a single romanization system proves to be impracticable it is recommended that the use of two systems only, one based on the French system of transliteration and the second on the English, be considered.

RESOLUTION 12

The Conference,

Notes that Iran has officially adopted and used for many years a system for romanizing Iranian geographical names from Persian script;

Further notes that this system is in consonance with scientific linguistic principles relating to transference between writing systems,

Recommends the adoption of the system set forth by the Government of Iran in the publication entitled in its English version "Transliteration of Farsi Geographic Names to Latin Alphabet", September 1966, as the international system for the romanization from Persian script of geographical names of Iran.

RESOLUTION 13

The Conference,

Recognizes that the accents and diacritical signs which accompany the Latin alphabet letters of many languages are an integral part of the spelling of these languages, in which they express such essential features as the tonic accent, the length and degree of openness of vowels, and other significant aspects of pronunciation and meaning;

Recommends that in international use all geographical names officially written in these alphabets by the countries concerned should remain unmodified and keep their distinguishing marks, even and indeed particularly when they are written in capitals.

RESOLUTION 14

The Conference,

Recognizing the need to adopt a single system for the transliteration of Amharic into the Roman alphabet,

Recommends that the Amharic to English transliteration system to be adopted by the Ethiopian national geographical names authority be considered by the United Nations Permanent Committee of Experts for acceptance as the standard international system for the writing of Ethiopian Geographical names in the Roman alphabet.

RESOLUTION 15

The Conference,

Recognizing, the many problems resulting from the lack of a writing system for many languages of the world, and

Further recognizing the need to record such languages as scientifically as possible in a suitable writing system,

Recommends that for the purpose of recording geographical names of unwritten languages the methods to be employed, in order of preference, will be:

- (a) recording in a phonemic writing system
- (b) recording in the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association (IPA);
 - (i) Where necessary, a narrow transcription of the pronunciation of the geographical name will be carried out in order to record as precisely as possible the full phonetic character of each name;
 - (ii) In normal circumstances, the broad transcription of a name in the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association will be carried out;
 - (iii) The final writing of the geographical name will be in an appropriate conventional alphabet or script, to approximate as nearly as possible the sound represented by the IPA broad transcription;
- (c) recording in the alphabet of a kindred language for which an alphabet exists, and
- (d) recording directly into a conventional alphabet or other writing system:
 - (i) by a person familiar with the language from which the recording is made; or, in the absence of such a person,
 - (ii) by a person with no knowledge of the language concerned. When the person making the recording is unfamiliar with the language, as much information as possible will be recorded in order to assess the reliability of the name as finally written.

RESOLUTION 16

The Conference,

Recognizing the extremely complex nature of the problems connected with the Romanization of Chinese characters, and

Further recognizing the need to adopt a single system for the Romanization of Chinese geographical names,

Recommends that the attention of the proposed United Nations Permanent Commission of Experts on Geographical Names be drawn to the Romanization system at present used by the Government of the Republic of China for the Romanization of its official maps, books and other documents dealing with geographical names and described in E/CONF.53/L.46 in relation to other romanization systems,

Further recommends the United Nations Permanent Commission of Experts on Geographical Names to consider the suitability of this system for acceptance as the standard system for the Romanization of Chinese geographical names.

RESOLUTION 17

The Conference,

Considering the duplication and confusion arising from the existence of different romanization systems based on the phonetic structure of the receiver languages,

Recommends that efforts should be made to arrive at an agreement on one single romanization based on scientific principles from each non-roman alphabet or script, for international application,

Further recommends that a special group of experts under the responsibility of the United Nations Permanent Commission on Geographical Names, should concentrate on this subject to make a comparative study of the various romanization systems and to analyze their advantages and disadvantages as media for standardization of geographical names,

Further recommends that this special group of experts should consider the views expressed by the various international (ICA, ICAO, ICOS, IHB, ISO, ITU, UPU etc.) and national bodies (BGN, PCGN, USSR Academy etc.) and seek ways to accomplish the adoption of one single romanization from each non-roman alphabet or script for international application as soon as may be possible.

RESOLUTION 18

The Conference,

Recognizing the existence of a large number of languages in Africa whose rendition into Romanized script presents very complex problems in the transcription of geographical names, and

Noting that the French and English alphabets are mostly employed in the rendering of geographical names in these syllabic languages,

Draws the attention of the U.N. Permanent Commission of Experts on Geographical Names to the peculiar nature of these problems, and

Requests the Commission to give special attention to these problems with a view to achieving an accurate rendering of sounds within the French and English language areas.