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WRITING SYSTEMS

Submitted by the Government of Hungary

The need to transfer names from other writing systems to one's own according to an approximate pronunciation is there in Hungary as in some other countries. In doing this, just because of the requirements of pronunciation, the requirement expressed in Recommendation VII of the Report of the Group of Experts: ^{1/} a one-to-one substitution of letter symbols would be impracticable. In our opinion the only feasible way of international standardization would be, if the transfer is effected according to the nearest possible system of symbols of the International Phonetic Association and by the way of one-to-one substitution of letter symbols. In this way the phonetic form is available, which depending on the requirements, can be transliterated into any language, including the exact transliteration of the original name. Either this solution will be taken as starting point, or the one-to-one substitution of letter symbols will be considered as the task of international standardization, which may raise the necessity of a so-called international alphabet. In case this alphabet does not aim at the transcription of pronunciation, it must comply with one requirement only: to different letters of a writing system different symbols must always be applied. This means also, that in the case of different writing systems the use of identical symbols is also possible. In practice this would imply, that on the basis of a stock of symbols, corresponding to all letters of a writing system using supposedly the most rich stock of letters, the problem of transliteration of any other writing system could be solved and only the mutual correspondence of the single symbols is to be cleared.

^{1/} See also E/CONF.53/L.2.