

Eighth Session
New York
26 Febr.-9 March 1979
Agenda item No. 10 (d)

STATE OF WORK IN THE WORKING GROUP ON A SINGLE
ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR EACH NON-ROMAN
WRITING SYSTEM

Submitted by E.Földi, Hungary

1. As no Circulars were sent out between the Seventh and Eighth Session of the Group of Experts, the following summary is given as background for discussion. On the basis of the discussion, and of the additional informations given, a circular will be sent out in order to promote developments and to get more data on the situation in individual countries.

2. With changes given in the Report of the Seventh Session, the present distribution of work is as follows:

Mr. M.Z.Ayoubi	Arabic /together with Mr.Kattan, Mr.Nédélec and Mr.Tazi/
Mr. E.Földi	Bulgarian, Korean /in North Korea/, Mongolian /together with Mr.Nédélec/
Mr. P.J.M.Geelan	Amharic, Burmese /together with Mr.Sharma/, Hebrew, Japanese /together with Mr.Kanakubo/, Khmer, Korean /in South Korea/, Laotian, Maldivian /together with Mr.Sharma/, Persian and Thai
Mr. T.Kanakubo	Japanese /together with Mr.Geelan/
Mr. F.A.Kattan	Arabic /together with Mr.Ayoubi, Mr.Nédélec and Mr.Tazi/
Mr. A.M.Komkov	Non-Roman alphabets of the Soviet Union
Mr. F.Nédélec	Arabic /together with Mr.Ayoubi, Mr.Kattan, and Mr.Tazi/, Mongolian /together with Mr.Földi/, Cyrillic alphabets of Yugoslavia

Mr. Qiao Feng	Chinese
Col. D.N.Sharma Atri Harnal	Writing Systems of the Indian Division, Bhutanese, Burmese /together with Mr.Geelan/ Maldivian /together with Mr.Geelan/, Pashtu
Mr. A.Tazi	Arabic /together with Mr.Ayoubi, Mr.Kattan, and Mr.Nédélec/
Mr. D.Vayacacos	Greek

3. Remarks on individual areas

Arabic

No change can be stated in the situation since the Report in Athens /L.77/, and no news about the meeting of the Arabic Division recommended in Resolution 9 of Athens. A publication of the Institut Géographique National can be mentioned: Bulletin d'information, Spécial toponymie, No. 35, 1978 /1/ which contains transliteration tables for Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Mauritania as used on maps prepared by IGN, and known from earlier communications. They are differing from each other as well as from the 1971 Beirut, the 1972 amended Beirut, and the 1977 Moroccan systems.

Bulgarian

Non-Roman Alphabets of the USSR

A system for the transliteration of the Cyrillic has been adopted by the COMECON countries with some modifications as compared to Paper L.21 /The situation in elaboration of a single Romanization System for the Cyrillic Alphabet for International Use/ of Athens. This new system is in accordance with the one recommended by Resolution 10 of Athens, and at the same time it gives possibility to further developments in the romanization of Russian^{and Macedonian} Cyrillic geographical names. Among others, these two alphabets are discussed in detail in the article "Die Transkription nichtlateinischer Schriften Südosteuropas und der Sowjetunion in die Lateinschrift" /Romanization of Non-Roman Writing Systems in South East Europe and the Soviet Union/, Österreichische Osthefte, Jahrgang 19, Wien 1977, by J.Breu. The article gives a detailed account on the situation after the 3rd Conference, and besides the Cyrillic includes also Greek, Georgian, and Armenian.

Chinese

A strengthening of the system recommended by Resolution 8 of Athens can be stated. According to the decision of the State Council of the People's Republic of China in November last year, the Pinyin system should be used for romanization in all official publications. This has and will have a definite influence on the use of geographical names throughout the world. It is interesting to note that the Geographical Magazine /a periodical published in the United Kingdom/ has adopted the Pinyin for the romanization of geographical names beginning with its April 1978 issue.

4. No development can be stated in case of existing U.N. Resolutions /other than Bulgarian and Chinese/: Amharic, Hebrew, Indian Division, Khmer, Persian, Thai, and Cyrillic in Yugoslavia. The same refers to the following alphabets still without standardized romanization: Burmese, Greek, Japanese, Korean and Pashto-Dari.