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THAI EXONYMS

(Colonel B. Khamasundara)

There has been a rule in writing geographical names for geographical entities situated outside Thailand. This rule was laid down by the Royal Institute in February 1965, and as the result, the Office of the Prime Minister issued a Proclamation dated 5 March 1965, in which names of Continents, Countries and their Capitals, US. States and their Capitals, Oceans, Seas and islands were officially standardized in Thai.

Names in Thai script have been converted from an English form. The conversion can be categorized into two main aspects. One aspect is to convert in accordance with the pronunciation in the English language, using Webster's Collegiate Gazetteer as the guide. The second aspect is based on well established pronunciation in the Thai spoken language, although such pronunciation may differ from the original language<sup>1/</sup>. In all cases, however, names for geographical entities outside Thailand are not romanized from Thai script, but retain their English form whenever the Roman script version is employed in either national or international maps and publications.

For a non-Roman writing system such as Thai, exonyms may be said to exist only in romanized form. If it is so stated, no Thai exonyms exist, because the English form is officially used to designate geographical names outside Thailand. It may be concluded that only English exonyms have existed in Thailand.

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<sup>1/</sup> Comparison of names in English form and romanized form of Thai scripts are shown in annex.

## Annex

### Comparison of names in English form and romanized form of Thai scripts.

1. The following is a list of geographical names for geographical entities outside Thailand which have been converted by means of well established <sup>the</sup> pronunciation in Thai spoken language.

<u>English form</u>	<u>Romanized form of Thai script</u>
Burma	Phama
Ceylon	Langka
China	Chin
Cochin-China	Khochin Chin
England	Angkrit
France	Farangset
Hué	We
Japan	Yipun
Johore	Ya-ho
Kedah	Sai Buri
Kelantan	Kalantan
Khmer, Cambodia	Khamen, Kamphucha
Korea	Kaoli
Malacca	Malaka
Peking	Packing
Perak	Pera
Perlis	Palit

<u>English form</u>	<u>Romanized form of Thai script</u>
Portugal	Protuket
Rangoon	Yang Kung
Saigon	Saigon
Seoul	Se-un
Selangor	Salangngo
Switzerland	Sawit
Tonkin	Tangkia
Trengganu	Trangkanu
Turkey	Turaki
Vientiane	Wiang Chan

Names of some states in the Soviet Socialist Republic <sup>have</sup> been converted

as follows :-

<u>English form</u>	<u>Romanized form of Thai script</u>
Karelo-Finnish	Kharelia Finlaen
Kazakh	Khasak Sathan
Kirgiz	Khoekisia
Tadzhik	Thachiki Sathan
Turkmen	Toekmeni Sathan
Uzbek	Utbeki Sathan

2. Generic elements and adjectives in the specific elements of names are generally translated. The following are some examples:

English form

Romanized form of Thai script

A. Generic element

City State

Nakhon Rat

Democratic Republic of ...

Satharanarat Prachathipatai .....

Federal Republic of .....

Sahaphan Satharanarat .....

Federation of .....

Sahaphan .....

People Republic of ....., or  
..... People's Republic

Satharanarat Prachachon .....

Republic of .....

Satharanarat .....

Russian Soviet Federated  
Socialist Republic

Sahaphan Satharanarat  
Sowiat Sochianlit Rutsia

.....Soviet Socialist Republic

Satharanarat Sowiat Sochianlit .....

Union of .....

Sahaphap .....

Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics

Sahaphap Satharanarat Sowiat  
Sochianlit

United Kingdom

Saharatcha -anachak

United Republic of .....

Saha Satharanarat .....

United States of America

Saharattha Amerika

B. Adjective: such as,

North Sea, Northern Territory

Thale Nua, Theritori Nua

Central African Republic

Satharanarat Apfarika Klang

East China Sea

Thale Chin Tawan Ok

West Irian, Western Australia

Irian Tawan Tok, Otsatrelia Tawan Tok

South Australia, Southern Rodesia

Otsatrelia Tai, Rodesia Tai

Red Sea

Thale Daeng

Black Sea

Thale Dam

Yellow Sea

Thale Luang

White Sea

Thale Khao