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Agenda item No. 8(c)

Romanization Report

(submitted by the United Kingdom Division)

Experts will no doubt be aware that Mr. P.J.M. Geelan has retired since the Eighth Session of the Group of Experts. The position with regard to the ten non-roman writing systems for which he had responsibility is as follows:

- Amharic Resolution 7 of the second United Nations Conference remains valid. No recent information has been received.
- Burmese Although Burma does now publish small-scale maps in Burmese script, there is insufficient information as yet on which to base a United Nations recommendation. It is thought that there is no officially approved romanization system in use in Burma.
- Hebrew Resolution 13 of the Third United Nations Conference remains valid, and the position appears to be stable.
- Japanese There has been no change since the Eighth Session of the Group of Experts. There is every likelihood that the two principal romanization systems (Modified Hepburn and Kunrei) will continue to be used.
- Khmer In the absence of any new information, Resolution 10 of the Second United Nations Conference remains valid.
- Korean Although the Republic of Korea Ministry of Education system has been introduced into some general maps of that country, the McCune-Reischauer system continues to be used extensively. It is also believed that the Ministry of Education system itself is undergoing some degree of modification. As long as there remain different systems in use in the Republic of Korea and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, it is unlikely that the United Nations will be able to make any recommendation for this language.
- Laotian No recent information has been received, and there is no immediate prospect of a United Nations recommendation.
- Maldivian There is no evidence that any locally produced official mapping has ever been published. The Maldives may to some extent be considered a roman-alphabet country, since the only available sources of names in any quantity are roman.
- Persian In the absence of any new information, Resolution 13 of the First United Nations Conference remains valid.
- Thai No recent information has been received, and Resolution 14 of the First United Nations Conference remains valid.