SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
London, 10-31 May 1972
Item 11(a)(b) of the provisional agenda

WRITING SYSTEMS

Presented by the Governments of Austria, the
Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland

Corrigendum

The subtitle of document E/CONF.61/L.21 should read as above.
SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
London, 10-31 May 1972
Item 11(a) (b) of the provisional agenda

WRITING SYSTEMS

Presented by the Governments of Austria, the
Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland

(a) Transfer of names from one writing system into another

1. Wherever a given romanization system has been officially introduced and
is employed in practice by a country for a language that is spoken on its territory
and uses a non-Roman alphabet, that same romanization system, irrespective of its
scientific qualities, should be recommended for international use.

2. If preparatory work, aiming at devising a romanization system as under
paragraph 1 is being carried on in a country, no resolution on that matter should
be passed until such preparatory work has yielded palpable results.

3. If, and while, in the case of languages using non-Roman alphabets no
official romanization system as under paragraph 1 exists and no preparatory work
as under paragraph 2 is observable, it is recommended that a system of romanization
that has proved workable in international use, especially in linguistics, libraries
and documentation be adopted. If more than one such romanization system exists
for a language, preference should be given to a system which enables reconversion
to be performed with a maximum of exactitude and simplicity.

4. Among the possible instances of conversion from one writing system into
another, only conversion from non-Roman alphabets and from no-alphabet scripts
into Roman script falls within the scope of international standardization of
geographical names.

(b) Writing of names from unwritten languages

5. For practical reasons the question of writing names from unwritten
languages should be dealt with under item 9 of the agenda (national standardization),

72-02907