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SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

WRITING SYSTEMS

TRANSFER OF NAMES FROM ONE WRITING SYSTEM TO ANOTHER

TRANSLITERATION OF BULGARIAN WRITING

LON.72-265

to Report of the Working Group on a Single Romanization System,
Part I, 19 February 1970 - 6 December 1971

UN Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Committee on Romanization

Circular from the United Kingdom Member (P.J.M.Geelan) No.2 (5 October 1971)

Comparative Study of Transliteration Systems: Bulgarian

The Bulgarian alphabet is a relatively simple form of the Cyrillic alphabet and can be dealt with satisfactorily on a letter-for-letter transliteration basis.

The comparative table attached sets out the four systems in current use for the transliteration of Bulgarian geographical names.

1. The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences System is used on the 1:2,500,000 Map of the World and in the Soviet World Atlas at 1:1,250,000.
2. The ISO System of 1968 is used in its optional variant form in the Duden Wörterbuch Geographischer Namen and in the Italian TCI Atlas.
3. The UPU French system appears to be used only in international lists of post offices and telegraph offices.
4. The BGN/PCGN System has been widely used for the last twenty years. Complete map cover of Bulgaria is available at 1:1,000,000 and 1:500,000; BGN Gazetteer No.44 lists every inhabited place in Bulgaria and covers physical features down to about 1:400,000 scale. All major atlases published in the United Kingdom use the BGN/PCGN system, though United States atlas practice is not consistent.
5. Among lesser-known systems in cartographic use perhaps the most interesting is that in Bertelsman's Atlas: more or less identical with the Bulgarian Academy system but with substitution of ŭ for â.

Final adoption of a system for international use by the 2nd U.N. Conference in London will depend on resolution of current disagreement on criteria. If the view prevails that the romanization of geographical names is a specialized facet of documentation, then the ISO System would be a strong candidate (though the existence of variant ISO options might make for further disagreement). If the view prevails that "donor" systems should as far as possible be accepted by all "receivers", then the Bulgarian Academy system will no doubt be proposed. If the view prevails that the existence of available romanized mapping at the largest possible scale should be the determining factor, then the BGN/PCGN system would be the natural candidate. If the tri-lingual (languages of the United Nations) approach is adopted, BGN/PCGN would no doubt be proposed for the English component; whether the somewhat eccentric UPU system would be considered suitable by the French-speaking group is an open question; and it would remain to be decided whether there exists a generally acceptable Spanish system. Other factors to be taken into consideration are: 1. reversibility - BGN/PCGN would have to provide for a dot or hyphen between T and S to distinguish TC from U, and rather more complex additions would be needed for the UPU system. 2. automation - diacritics would have to be reduced to a minimum.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TRANSLITERATION SYSTEMS FOR BULGARIAN

(Where columns are blank all systems
are identical with BAS)

<u>Bulgarian</u>	<u>BAS</u>	<u>ISO</u>	<u>BGN/PCGN</u>	<u>UPU</u>
а	ǎ			
б	b			
в	v			
г	g			
д	d			
е	e			
ж	ǰ	ž	zh	j
з	z			
и	i			
й	j	j	y	i
к	k			
л	l			
м	m			
н	n			
о	o			
п	p			
р	r			
с	s	s	s	s, ss (between vowels)
т	t			
у	u	u	u	ou
х	h	h	kh	h
ц	c	c	ts	tz
ч	č	č	ch	tch
ш	š	š	sh	ch
щ	št	šč (št)	sht	cht
ъ	ǎ	" (ǎ)	ǔ	a
ь	j	'	'	i
ю	ju	ju	yu	u
я	ja	ja	ya	ia

BAS: Bulgarian Academy of Sciences system.

ISO: International Organization for Standardization, Recommendation R 9, 2nd edition, September 1968. Bracketed forms are optional variants.

BGN/PCGN: System adopted by U.S. Board on Geographic Names and Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in 1949 and 1952 respectively.

UPU: French-based system used by the Universal Postal Union and the International Telecommunications Union

PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES FOR BRITISH OFFICIAL USE

TRANSLITERATION OF BULGARIAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The following system for the transliteration of Bulgarian, devised by the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) and published by them in May, 1949, was accepted for British official use by the Committee in September, 1952, and should be referred to as the BGN/PCGN System.

<u>Bulgarian</u>	<u>Transliteration</u>	<u>Bulgarian</u>	<u>Transliteration</u>
А а	a	П п	p
Б б	b	Р р	r
В в	v	С с	s
Г г	g	Т т	t
Д д	d	У у	u
Е е	e	Ф ф	f
Ж ж	zh	Х х	kh
З з	z	Ц ц	ts
И и	i	Ч ч	ch
Й й	y	Ш ш	sh
К к	k	Щ щ	sht
Л л	l	Ъ ъ	ǎ
М м	m	Ь ь	' (apostrophe)
Н н	n	Ю ю	yu
О о	o	Я я	ya

In transliteration from sources written in the orthography which was official before February, 1945:

1. Word-final ъ should be omitted in transliteration.
2. The obsolete letter х , now replaced by х , should be transliterated by ħ.
3. The obsolete letter Ъ , replaced in February 1945 by Е or Я according to local pronunciation, should be transliterated by ye, if sources written in the new orthography are not available. Names transliterated with ye resulting from Ъ should be corrected to agree with the new Bulgarian spellings as they become available

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