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FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
Montreal, 18-31 August 1987

Draft report of the Conference

Resolutions adopted by the Conference

Draft resolution 1: submitted by the Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics (Committee III)

ROMANIZATION OF THE RUSSIAN ALPHABET FOR  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Noting that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has officially adopted a system for romanizing geographical names of the USSR written in the Russian Cyrillic Alphabet,

Noting also that this system has been applied on maps produced in the USSR for international use,

Recommends that the system GOST 1983 set forth by the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography (GUGK) and given in the annex to this resolution be adopted as the international system for the romanization of geographical names in the Russian Cyrillic Alphabet.

TRANSLITERATION TABLE  
 for transferring Russian Cyrillic letters (R.C.)  
 into Roman letters (R.)

R.C.	R.	E x a m p l e s		R.C.	R.	E x a m p l e s	
а	a	Анапа	Anapa	с	s	Сасово	Sasovo
б	b	Бабушкин	Babuškin	т	t	Татта	Tatta
в	v	Вавилово	Vavilovo	у	u	Уржум	Uržum
г	g	Гагарин	Gagarin	ф	f	Фофаново	Fofanovo
д	d	Дудинка	Dudinka	х	h	Хохлома	Hohloma
е	e	Елисеевка	Eliseevka	ц	c	Цветково	Cvetkovo
ё	ë	Ёлкино	Ėlkinò	ч	č	Чечельник	Čečel'nik
	.	Псёл	Psël	ш	š	Шишкино	Šiškinò
ж	ž	Жужа	Žuža	щ	šč	Щукино	Ščukino
з	z	Звёздный	Zvëzdnyj	ъ	"	Подъячево	Pod"jačevò
и	i	Идрица	Idrica	ы	y	Ыныкчанский	Ynykčanskij
й	j	Зарайск	Zarajsk	ь	'	Параньга	Paran'ga
к	k	Коканд	Kokand			Казань	Kazan'
л	l	Лалвар	Lalvar			Щучье	Ščuč'e
м	m	Маймак	Majmak	э	e	Элиста	Ėlista
н	n	Нежин	Nežin	ю	ju	Юрино	Jurino
о	o	Ободовка	Obodovka			Юхнов	Juhnòv
п	p	Пап	Pap			Юрюзань	Jurjuzan'
р	r	Ребриха	Rebriha	я	ja	Ямал	Jamal
						Язъяван	Jaz"javan
						Яя	Jaja
						Вязьма	Vjáz'ma

Draft resolution 2: submitted by Greece and Cyprus (Committee III)

ROMANIZATION OF THE GREEK ALPHABET FOR  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Noting that the conversion of the Greek alphabet into Roman letters has been extensively discussed at previous Conferences and sessions of the UNGEGN,

Noting further the positive opinion expressed at the Fourth Conference towards the Greek Standardization Organization Standard No. 743 (ELOT 743) prepared by Greece and Cyprus,

Recognizing that this system is linguistically sound and suitable for the transcription and/or transliteration of Greek names,

Recognizing further that this system has been officially sanctioned by the Governments of Greece and Cyprus for cartographic and administrative purposes, and that implementation of it has been carried out for maps of Greece and on maps and in gazetteers of Cyprus,

Acknowledging that full implementation will require a suitable transitional period and that donor countries should provide practical assistance to receiver countries for that purpose,

Recommends that the ELOT 743 conversion system be adopted as the international system for the romanization of Greek geographical names.

## CONVERSION TABLE

Greek character and combination of characters	Conversion into Latin Transcription	Footnotes	Pronunciation according to the phonetic alphabet
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A, α (AI, αι) <sup>(1)</sup> (AI, άι) (AI, αϊ) AY, αυ	a ai ái aī av (af v	a ai ái aī av af v	(1) (2)	a e ai ai av af v y ny g <sup>(3)</sup> (ny <sup>(4)</sup> ) <sup>(5)</sup> nx ny z e i ei ei ei ei ev (ef z i iv (if th i k l m (b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o
B, β Γ, γ ΓΓ, γγ (ΓΚ, γκ)	g ng gk	g gg gk		y ny g <sup>(3)</sup> (ny <sup>(4)</sup> ) <sup>(5)</sup> nx ny z e i ei ei ei ei ev (ef z i iv (if th i k l m (b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o
Ξ, ξ ΞΧ, γχ Δ, δ Ε, ε (ΕΙ, ει) (ΕΙ, έι) (ΕΙ, εϊ) ΕΥ, ευ	nx nch d e ei éi eī ev (ef z i iv (if th i k l m (b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o	px pχ d e ei éi eī ev ef z i iv (if th i k l m b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o	(1) (2)	y ny g <sup>(3)</sup> (ny <sup>(4)</sup> ) <sup>(5)</sup> nx ny z e i ei ei ei ei ev (ef z i iv (if th i k l m (b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o
Ζ, ζ Η, η ΗΥ, ηυ	z i iv (if th i k l m (b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o	z i iv (if th i k l m b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o	(1) (2)	y ny g <sup>(3)</sup> (ny <sup>(4)</sup> ) <sup>(5)</sup> nx ny z e i ei ei ei ei ev (ef z i iv (if th i k l m (b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o
Θ, θ Ι, ι Κ, κ Λ, λ Μ, μ ΜΠ, μπ	θ i k l m (b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o	θ i k l m b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o	(3), (5) (4)	y ny g <sup>(3)</sup> (ny <sup>(4)</sup> ) <sup>(5)</sup> nx ny z e i ei ei ei ei ev (ef z i iv (if th i k l m (b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o
Ν, ν (ΝΤ, ντ) Ξ, ξ Ο, ο (ΟΙ, οι) (ΟΙ, όι) (ΟΙ, οϊ) ΟΥ, ου Π, π Ρ, ρ Σ, σ, ς Τ, τ Υ, υ (ΥΙ, υι) Φ, φ Χ, χ Ψ, ψ Ω, ω	n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o	n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o		y ny g <sup>(3)</sup> (ny <sup>(4)</sup> ) <sup>(5)</sup> nx ny z e i ei ei ei ei ev (ef z i iv (if th i k l m (b mp n nt x o oi oi oi oi ou p r s t y yi f ch ps o

1. Before the consonants β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ, and all vowels
2. Before the consonants θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ, ψ and at the end of the word
3. At the beginning of the word
4. In the middle of the word
5. At the end of the word
6. The combinations in parentheses are included in the table just to be clear because they are converted according to the conversion rules of each character they consist of
7. Only for information. It is not part of the standard
8. Before the consonants β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ.

Note: Accents are transcribed optionally by (´) . Spiritus/apostrophe/iota subscript are not transcribed.

Draft resolution 3: submitted by the United Nations  
Group of Experts on Geographical Names

STATUTE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS  
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Considering that resolution 22 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names recommended that the Group of Experts examine the possibility of preparing a single document defining the structure and activities of the Group of Experts,

Recognizing that the Group of Experts at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions adopted such a document under the title: Statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering that this document fulfils the wishes expressed by the Fourth United Nations Conference,

Recommends that the Statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names shall be henceforth the basic document governing the work of the Group of Experts.

Draft resolution 4: submitted by the United Nations  
Group of Experts on Geographical Names

CREATION OF CELTIC AND HEBREW DIVISIONS

The Conference,

Considering that the composition of the linguistic/geographical divisions should enhance the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Noting the preferences stated during the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Group of Experts,

Noting further the proposal made by the Group of Experts to divide the present Asia South-West (other than Arabic) Division into two divisions, namely an Asia South-West Division and a Hebrew Division and the further proposal to establish a Celtic Division,

Recommends that the number of the linguistic/geographical divisions in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be increased by two, under the following titles:

Celtic Division

Hebrew Division.

Draft resolution 5: submitted by the United Kingdom (Committee I)

DIFFERENTIATING TOPONYMS FROM OTHER MAP TEXT

The Conference,

Noting the difficulties and misunderstandings which may arise in distinguishing toponyms from non-toponymic text on maps,

Recognizing that users whose native language is different from that used on a map may experience particular difficulties in this area,

Recognizing further that the automated scanning of maps by optical electronic means may facilitate the automated recording of toponyms,

1. Recommends that a clear typographical distinction be made on national topographical maps between toponyms and those items of text which serve other purposes,

2. Further recommends that the methods of differentiation be explained in national "Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors".



Draft resolution 6: submitted by Committee I

COLLECTION OF BASIC INFORMATION ON NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION  
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Recognizing that basic information on how authorities responsible for standardizing geographical names are structured is both necessary and useful,

Further recognizing that the United Nations Secretariat ensures liaison and plays a key role in the area of information and documentation,

Recommends that the Group of Experts prepare and the United Nations Secretariat distribute a questionnaire to be completed by national names authorities and make the results available to Member States. The questionnaire would deal with:

1. The structure and functions of national names authorities;
2. Toponymic data banks; and
3. The contents and presentation of gazetteers.

Draft resolution 7: submitted by the  
Republic of Korea (Committee III)

ROMANIZATION OF THE KOREAN ALPHABET FOR USE  
IN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Recognizing the desirability of a single romanization system for each non-roman alphabet language,

Recognizing further that the subject of romanization, as expressed by resolution 15 of the Fourth Conference, is of paramount concern to the Conferences,

Noting the adoption of new guidelines for the romanization of Korean by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea, following its Ministry Directive number 84-1 issued on 13 January 1984,

Noting further that the guidelines have been applied, since that date, in the maps and gazetteers published by Korean authorities,

Recommends that the guidelines, as contained in document E/CONF.79/INF/68, be referred to the Group of Experts for consideration as the single international system for the romanization of Korean geographical names.

Draft resolution 8: submitted by Romania and Canada (Committee I)

PRECEDENCE OF NATIONAL OFFICIAL FORMS OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Referring to recommendation 28 of the Second Conference and recommendation 20 of the Fourth Conference,

Noting that progress has been made in reducing the use of exonyms in cartography and related fields,

Observing that the reduction of the use of exonyms is being carried out at different rates in different countries,

Considering, moreover, that many public and private organizations other than names authorities play a significant and effective role in the dissemination of foreign place names,

1. Recommends further reduction of the use of exonyms, particularly those which raise difficulties at the international level;
2. Recommends more specifically that countries intensify their efforts to persuade private and public organizations, such as educational institutions, transport companies and the media, to reduce the use of exonyms in their respective publications or at least to intensify the use of geographical names in their local standardized form (i.e., endonyms);
3. Also recommends that, where exonyms are used in such publications, maps and other documents, precedence be given to national official names.

Draft resolution 9 and 16: submitted by the ad hoc committee of the  
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

WORK PERFORMED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES, AND ITS FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Conference,

Recognizing the positive results achieved by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,

Considering that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, between the Conferences, is the only body within the United Nations system dealing with the problems relating to geographical names at the international level,

Wishing to ensure that Group activities are maximized at all times, and wishing to consolidate those programmes which most effectively promote national and international standardization,

1. Recommends that the Group of Experts continue to pursue actively its responsibilities in line with the recommendations of the Conference;

2. Recommends further that a Working Group be established within the Group of Experts to make a complete review of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conferences and determine whether or not they have been or can be implemented. The Group should also monitor the activities of the Group and investigate fresh approaches and new avenues to achieve the objectives of the Group of Experts in the most efficient way.

Draft resolution 10: submitted by Romania (Committee III)

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MEETINGS

The Conference,

Noting that between the Conferences countries are involved in intense activities connected with the standardization of geographical names,

Noting also that the exchange of ideas and materials substantially contributes to the solution of problems regarding two or more countries belonging to the same geographical area,

Recommends the organization of bilateral and multilateral meetings, in the spirit of the recommendations and resolutions of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Draft resolution 11: submitted by the Conference (plenary)

SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION  
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Noting the positive results of the work accomplished in the field of the standardization of geographical names on both national and international levels by the States Members of the United Nations system,

Noting further an essential role played by the Conference in the co-ordination of these efforts,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its offer to act as host for the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that a Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be held in Morocco in the second half of 1992.

Draft resolution 12: submitted by Committee III

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Conference,

Taking account of the success and usefulness of the courses in toponomy held at Cisarua, Indonesia, in June 1982 and at Rabat, Morocco, in December 1985,

Considering the needs and resources indicated during the Conference,

1. Recommends that similar courses and seminars be held in other geographical divisions, with appropriate financial support from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, particularly in Kenya, Latin America and Canada, for English-, Spanish- and French-speaking participants, respectively;

2. Further recommends that a syllabus for toponymic training courses, adaptable to the needs of the countries concerned, be prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts, to be disseminated together with appropriate documents relating to Conference resolutions, national toponymic guidelines, definitions of terms, indexes, data banks, the structure of names authorities and methods of preparing toponymic inventories.

Draft resolution 13: submitted by Canada (Committee III)

ABORIGINAL/NATIVE GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Whereas groups of aboriginal/native people exist in many countries throughout the world,

Whereas these people have their own languages, cultures, and traditions,

Recognizing that the geographical names of these people are a significant part of the toponymic traditions of every area/country in which they live,

Recognizing further that aboriginal/native people have rights and an inherent interest in having their geographical nomenclature recognized as important,

1. Recommends that all countries having groups of aboriginal/native people make a special effort to collect their geographical names along with appropriate associated information;
2. Recommends further that, whenever possible and appropriate, a written form of these names be adopted for official use on maps and other publications;
3. Recommends further that regional and international meetings be held to discuss methodology for the collection and recording of aboriginal/native geographical names.



Draft resolution 14: submitted by Canada (Committee III)

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION MANUAL

The Conference,

Noting that a need has already been expressed for a manual of simplified guidelines to assist Member States with the national standardization of geographical names,

Noting further that such a manual, entitled "Organization and Function of a National Geographical Names Standardization Programme", has been compiled under the direction of UNGEGN,

Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat publish the manual as a volume of "World Cartography", as soon as possible.

Draft resolution 15: submitted by Canada (Committee III)

SEMI-ANNUAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

The Conference,

Noting the need for a world information network relating to geographical names,

Recommends that a semi-annual bulletin be prepared and disseminated by the United Nations Secretariat, to geographical names authorities and cartographic agencies, giving information on: (a) activities, such as training courses, new publications and regional meetings, and (b) significant name decisions.

Draft resolution 16

(see draft resolution 9)

Draft resolution 17: submitted by Canada (Plenary Session)

PROMOTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES STANDARDIZATION PROGRAMMES

The Conference,

Considering the importance of geographical names as significant elements of the cultural heritage of nations and the economic advantage of national geographical names standardization,

Recommends that State authorities be encouraged to devote due support to activities of standardization and that they recognize the standardization of geographical names as an important part of their programmes of international co-operation and technical assistance.

Draft resolution 18: submitted by Committee III (for Committee I)

PUBLICATION OF TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES

The Conference,

Referring to resolution 4 of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names concerning the publication by countries of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors,

Noting that some countries have already complied with the resolution but that many have not yet done so,

Considering the key role played by such publications in attaining the objectives of national standardization as the basis for international standardization,

Recommends that countries be strongly encouraged to publish and keep up-to-date toponymic guidelines for map and other editors dealing, inter alia, with the items listed in resolution 4 of the Fourth Conference and that the Secretariat provide appropriate assistance for the publication and dissemination of such guidelines.

Draft resolution 19: submitted by Committee III

FEATURES BEYOND A SINGLE SOVEREIGNTY

The Conference,

Referring to resolution 25 of the Second Conference concerning features beyond a single sovereignty,

Considering that it would be useful to know and compare the practical experience acquired by neighbouring countries in the standardization of names of geographical features extending across their common frontiers,

1. Recommends that Member States systematically inform future Conferences of their achievements in this field;
2. Recommends to that end that those names authorities which have not yet done so establish with neighbouring authorities joint or interrelated programmes for the inventorying and treatment of names of features extending across their common frontiers.

Draft resolution 20: submitted by Committee III (for plenary session)

NATIONAL REPORTS

The Conference,

Recognizing that the national reports submitted by each country on the occasion of United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names contain much information that is useful for the purpose of consideration of the various items on the agendas of the Conferences,

Considering that, in order to make an adequate evaluation of the progress made by all participating countries, it is important that the appropriate information relating to each agenda item be made available to the Conferences on time and, where necessary, by each participating country,

1. Recommends that the Secretariat, when transmitting invitations to Member States to participate in the Conferences, attach a detailed plan (model) for the drafting of national reports, proposing a specific sequence of items on which countries are to give an account of the progress made since the preceding conference;

2. Further recommends that the necessary steps be taken to ensure that all the national reports to be discussed at the Conference are distributed to participating countries at least one month before the commencement of the Conference.

Draft resolution 21: submitted by Committee III (for Committee I)

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES

The Conference,

Referring to resolution 4, recommendation A, of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,

Noting that a number of countries do not yet have national geographical names authorities,

Urges those countries which do not yet have national geographical names authorities to proceed without delay to establish such authorities, with the status, composition, function and procedures specified in resolution 4, recommendation A, of the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, utilizing, where necessary, the information collected under resolution 6.



Draft resolution 22: new version as amended by Committee II

PUBLICATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN THEIR NATIONAL OFFICIAL FORM

The Conference,

Considering the great amount of knowledge and experience which has accumulated in the field of standardization of geographical names,

Noting that the resulting material must be collated and disseminated to all countries,

Notwithstanding the fact that several countries may already have published comprehensive national gazetteers,

1. Recommends that each country prepare maps as well as lists of names as indicated in resolution 35 of the Second Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

2. Further recommends that the Group of Experts on Geographical Names co-ordinate national efforts along the lines recommended above, and report progress at future conferences.

Draft resolution 23: submitted by the United Nations  
Group of Experts on Geographical Names

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

The Conference,

Reaffirming the need for international exchange of information concerning achievements in the field of national and international name standardization,

1. Notes with satisfaction the publication by the United Nations Secretariat of Volume XVIII of the World Cartography Bulletin which was completely devoted to the subject of geographical names, and that it had world-wide circulation, and has been greatly appraised by Member States;

2. Recommends that the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development should be encouraged to be further involved in preparation, co-ordination and issuing of United Nations publications facilitating exchange of information and transfer of knowledge in the field of geographical names.

Draft resolution 24: proposed by the United States of America (Plenary)

CO-OPERATION WITH THE PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

The Conference,

Recognizing that other international organizations have an interest in programmes concerning the standardization of geographical names,

Realizing that programmes of the UNGEGN concerning undersea features and extra-terrestrial features have been effectively transferred to the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Astronomical Union respectively, and that UNGEGN interests are represented by a liaison to both organizations,

Understanding that the Pan American Institute of Geography and History has formally expressed support for the programme of the Working Group on Gazetteers and Geographical Names within the Cartography Commission of PAIGH,

Recommends that the UNGEGN

1. Recognize the PAIGH potential for accomplishing worthwhile objectives in its areas of operation; and
2. Establish a liaison to assure optimal collaboration between the two organizations.

Draft resolution 25: submitted by Canada (Committee III)

REPORTS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH  
THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Conference,

Referring to the mandate entrusted by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1314 (XLIV) of 1968, to the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, requesting it, inter alia, to collect information issued by international organizations dealing with the standardization of geographical names,

Considering that the Group of Experts, in order to avoid duplicating the work done by various international organizations on the standardization of geographical names, considers it advisable that those organizations themselves develop standardization activities, in co-ordination with the Group of Experts,

Recommends that all liaison officers to the above-mentioned organizations produce written reports on the activities of those organizations for submission to each Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and each meeting of the Group of Experts and that, in the absence of such liaison officers, the Secretariat requests those organizations to produce such reports.

Draft resolution 26: the Conference

VOTE OF THANKS

The Conference,

Extends its heartfelt thanks to the Government of Canada for the excellent arrangements and services provided for the Conference and for the generous hospitality extended to each and every participant;

Expresses its gratitude to the Commission de toponymie du Québec and to Le Ministère des Relations Internationales et des Affaires Culturelles du Québec for their hospitality;

Further expresses its appreciation to the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences for extending an invitation to the Conference for a joint session;

Also expresses its gratitude to the President of the Conference for the excellent way in which he conducted the meetings and the manner in which he looked after the interests of participants;

Also expresses its appreciation to the Officers of the Conference for the way in which they conducted the meeting and to the Officers and staff of Canada and of the United Nations for their hard work.

Draft resolution 27: submitted by Israel (Committee II)

DIRECT EXCHANGE OF TOPONYMIC INFORMATION BETWEEN  
VARIOUS COMPUTER SYSTEMS

The Conference,

Noting the progress made individually by several countries in the field of computer-assisted processing of geographical names,

Further noting the considerable effort invested in developing such methods, and assuming that an increasing number of countries will avail themselves of such methods,

Recommends that the UNGEGN, in consultation with countries which have already developed such methods, investigate the preparation of guidelines for direct communication with, and exchange of toponymic information between various computer systems.

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