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WRITING SYSTEMS AND GUIDES TO PRONUNCIATION
ROMANIZATION

Information on the Romanization system for Russian
Cyrillic geographical names

(Submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

INFORMATION ON THE ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR RUSSIAN
CYRILLIC GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Since 1983 the Romanization system based on the State Standard GOS GOST 16876-71 "Rules for transliteration of Cyrillic letters by Roman letters" regulating romanization of Russian, Ukrainian, and Belorussian names as well as of those of other languages using the Cyrillic alphabet is applied in cartographic publications of the Soviet Union. For sake of standardization of geographical names some stipulations fixed in special "Methodical guidelines for GOST-application" developed in the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography have been introduced in the said Standard. The Romanization system has been adopted by the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography in 1983 as obligatory for scientific and map production organizations.

The adopted Romanization system has been elaborated in strict conformity with scientific principles as applied to the Russian language. It was in due time presented for discussion to international scientific community. The draft Romanization system for Russian Cyrillic alphabet prepared in 1982 has been widely discussed at the 4th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The draft system provided for using monographs and diacritical signs only and allowed a strict one-to-one conversion. But during and after the 4th Conference Soviet experts received a number of proposals from their foreign colleagues aiming at introducing of some changes into the system in order to make it more suitable for use in their countries. Taking these proposals into account, the "Methodical guidelines" have been modified, diagraphs for the letters "щ", "ю", "я" have been introduced, and the system has acquired its final form under name GOST 1983. The

system was presented and discussed at the 11th and 12th sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

The adopted Romanization system is used not only in cartographic products, such as Map of the Soviet Union at the scale of 1 to 8,000,000, city plans of Moscow and Leningrad, and which is especially important, the maps of the Atlas Mira (World Atlas) being in preparation, but is being also gradually introduced in publications of other USSR departments, such as time-tables of international railway lines.