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ON THE COMPILATION OF THE GAZETTEER OF RUSSIAN
CONVENTIONAL NAMES FOR GEOGRAPHICAL ENTITIES IN
FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Submitted by A.M. Komkov, U.S.S.R.

In pursuance of resolution 28 of the London UN Conference on the standardization of geographical names (E/CONF. 61/3, Draft Report on the Conference, page 3) work on reducing the number of conventional names is in progress in the Soviet Union. Hence it proved necessary first and foremost to bring together all names of this kind encountered in various publications. This is the first designation of the gazetteer in preparation.

The gazetteer contains all the names we refer to as conventional ones and amounts to about 2 000. Now that the preparation of the gazetteer is in full swing we can give a sample of a page (its content) and the foreward where the designation of the gazetteer is explained, the concept of "conventional name" is defined, a classification of conventional names is given and the structure of the gazetteer is outlined.

Since the second aim of this work is to find out what conventional names can be eliminated and replaced by normalized Russian forms a draft gazetteer will be circulated to all the agencies and organizations interested in geographical names. They will be requested to give their recommendations as to its form, content, and as to which names could be eliminated from the list. We believe that it will be possible to begin this work by reducing the number of conventional names with wrong transcriptions and some translated names.

After the gazetteer has been widely discussed and approved by the agencies involved, it will be published. We hope the gazetteer of Russian conventional names will be issued in time to be demonstrated at the third UN Conference on the standardization of geographical names scheduled to be held in 1977 in Athens.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATION OF GEODESY AND CARTOGRAPHY
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR

DICTIONARY

of Russian Conventional Names
for Geographical Entities
in Foreign Countries

Moscow

FOREWORD

The planned work on normalization of the Russian transcription of foreign geographical names has been carried out in the Soviet Union over the years. For this purpose of normalization, the rules of rendering foreign geographical names into Russian are being developed. Such rules provide for necessary uniformity and stability of spellings of names in official documents, on maps, and in other publications. At the same time the rules try to resolve, in the most possible degree, the problem of reflecting the sounding of the local name in the corresponding Russian form (taking into consideration the differences between the Russian phonetics, grammar and alphabet and those of the language concerned).

In accordance with the accepted procedure, the rules developed are introduced into the wide use as compulsory instructions. But there are no rules without exceptions. In the Russian language there exists quite a numerous group of foreign geographical names used in more or less fixed forms called conventional. This group falls into the following categories:

1. Long ago introduced Russian names of foreign states: АВСТРИЯ in lieu of Эстеррайх (Österreich), АЛБАНИЯ in lieu of Шкшери (Shqipëri), ФИНЛЯНДИЯ in lieu of Суоми (Suomi), ФРАНЦИЯ in lieu of Франс (France), etc.

2. Those Russian forms of local names, which have been received by translation: Скалистые горы in lieu of Роки-Маунтинс (Rocky Mountains), Огненная Земля in lieu of Тьерра-дель-Фуэго (Tierra del Fuego).

3. Those forms received by adding the Russian suffixes and endings to the Russian transcription of local forms of geographical names: Венецианский залив in lieu of зал. Венеция (Golfo di Venezia), Тасманово море in lieu of море

Тасман (Tasman Sea), Сена in lieu of Сен (Seine), прол. Дрейка in lieu of прол. Дрейк (Drake Passage), etc.

3. Those Russian names of foreign entities for which local forms are wholly different: Андалузские горы in lieu of Сьеррас-Бетикас (Sp. Sierras Béticas), о. Гаити in lieu of Эспаньола (Sp. Española), Пиренейский п-ов in lieu of п-ов Иберика (Sp. Peninsula Ibérica), etc.

4. Those Russian forms which have been brought into use in the Russian language, using some former rules of transcription and often through some vehicular language: Гамбург in lieu of Хамбург (Ger. Hamburg), Гудзон in lieu of Хадсон (E. Hudson), Гуль в lieu of Халл (E. Hull), Париж in lieu of Пари (Fr. Paris), Рим in lieu of Рома (It. Roma), Эдинбург in lieu of Эдинборо (E. Edinburgh), etc.

Besides conventional Russian forms falling into the categories listed above, i.e. those which are different from the normalized Russian forms of local names, there are a number of Russian forms of those geographical entities which are beyond any sovereignty or cover the territories of not a single country. Examples: Атлантический океан, Азия, Европа, Средиземное море, Тихий океан, Черное море, etc. Such entities do not have and can not have any local form; they change from language to language. The same group includes Russian geographical names for entities traditionally recognized only in the Russian geography and having no analogues in the geographical classification of the countries to which they are attributed Examples: Северо-Германская низменность, Среднедунайская равнина etc. Taking into consideration the specific character of this category of names, they are included in a separate part of the Dictionary.

Lists of conventional forms for foreign geographical entities have up to now been published only as a part of the rules for Russian rendering of foreign geographical names, which are issued for every separate country or language. A ge-

neral index of conventional forms has not been prepared so far in the Soviet Union, though, as the life shows, such a publication is badly needed. So this "Dictionary of Russian conventional names for geographical entities in foreign countries" is thought to fill in the gap.

The Dictionary, apart from the main goal to bring together all existing conventional names for foreign entities, has the other, not less important, aim; the systematized information, brought together at one place, will help to decide the question about the possible cutback of the number of conventional names used.

The draft dictionary includes about 2,000 entries of conventional forms coming into the Russian language through more or less frequent use, the rightfulness of which is different for different names. The necessity and expediency of the use of some conventional geographical forms rises no question. They have come into the Russian classic literature, into the novels of L. Tolstoy, F. Dostoevsky, into V.I. Lenin's works, and, first of all, into the active lexical fund of the Russian language, where they have formed derivatives (Неаполь - неаполитанцы, Париж - парижане) and even stable word-phrases (Рим - римское право, Римский папа, Китай - китайская стена).

Different attitude is caused by the names, though used on maps and in literature, but not having so old and stable tradition and coming into use because of insufficient knowledge of languages or wrong transcription. In this case there are grounds for refusal from the traditional forms and replacement of wrong and outdated names by correct and up-to-date ones. This is becoming necessary, taking into consideration the growing international co-operation. It was not by chance that the 2nd UN Conference on standardization of geographical names emphasized this fact in its recommendations. The information included in the draft dictionary will permit to determine what conventional forms should remain in the final version of the dictionary and what should be deleted.

The Dictionary has two parts. The first one includes the names, the Russian form of which is different from that received using the correct rules of rendering into the Russian language.

The first column gives conventional names in the Russian alphabetical order. The second one contains shortened designations of the kind of the feature. The third column contains the local (one or more) name. Names for the features of the countries that use Roman or Cyrillic alphabet are given in their local spellings. Names for the features of other countries are given in the official romanization system or, if there is no such, in some widely-used romanization.

The fourth column gives the Russian normalized form that should be used if there had been no conventional form or in case of its deletion. The fifth column gives shortened designations of the territory (or aquatic zone) in which the feature named is located.

The second part contains the list of conventional Russian names for major features beyond the territory of the Soviet Union, which do not have approved local forms.