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ON THE ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR
PLACE-NAMES OF THE U.S.S.R.

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A specified state standard for the Romanization of Russian words was approved (ГОСТ I6876-7I. Транслитерация русских слов латинскими буквами) in the Soviet Union in 1973:

А а	А а	Р р	R r
Б б	В в	С с	S s
В в	V v	Т т	T t
Г г	G g	У у	U u
Д д	D d	Ф ф	F f
Е е	Е е	Х х	Kh kh
Ё ё	Е е (Ё ё)	Ц ц	C c
Ж ж	Zh zh	Ч ч	Ch ch
З з	Z z	Ш ш	Sh sh
И и	I i	Щ щ	Shch shch
Й й	J j	Ъ	"
К к	K k	Ы	y
Л л	L l	Ь	!
М м	M m	Э э	É è
Н н	N n	Ю ю	Ju ju
О о	O o	Я я	Ja ja
Р р	P p		

However, the Romanization system worked out by the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1951-1956 and solidified during the last few years has been preserved for use in geographical and cartographical publications. It is as follows:

А а	А а	
Б б	В в	
В в	V v	
Г г	G g	
Д д	D d	
Е е	e	- after consonants
	je	- initially, after vowels, Ъ and Ь
Ё ё	!o	- after consonants, except Ч, Ш, Щ, Ж
	o	- after Ч, Ш, Щ, Ж
	jo	- initially, after vowels, Ъ and Ь
Ж ж	Ž ž	

З з	Z z	
И и	I i	
	ji	- after ь
Й й	J j	
К к	K k	
Л л	L l	
М м	M m	
Н н	N n	
О о	O o	
П п	P p	
Р р	R r	
С с	S s	
Т т	T t	
У у	U u	
Ф ф	F f	
Х х	Ch ch	
Ц ц	C c	
Ч ч	Č č	
Ш ш	Š š	
Щ щ	Šč šč	
Ъ	-	
Ы	y	
Ь	!	- finally and after consonants
	-	- ommitted before vowels
Э э	E e	
Ю ю	!u	- after consonants
	ju	- initially, after vowels, ъ and ь
Я я	!a	- after consonants
	ja	- initially, after vowels, ъ and ь

This system applied for the first time in the World Atlas (Moscow, 1967) was afterwards used in a number of other world atlases, viz. in the Rand McNally International Atlas (Chicago-New York - San Francisco, 1969), the Haack Weltatlas (Gotha-Leipzig, 1972), the Oxford World Atlas (Oxford University Press, 1973) and in others. The system is also used in the World Map on 1:2,500,000 scale which is being published now by the socialist countries. This all proves that this Romanization

system has won rather widespread recognition among the cartographic publishing houses in various countries.

The time has come to recommend the Romanization system applied on the Soviet maps as an international one so as to uniform the lettering of place-names of our country in all the cartographic works published abroad.

As far as the Romanization of the non-Russian place-names of the Soviet Union is concerned we think it practical at the present moment to Romanize the names of the languages that use Cyrillic, Armenian and Georgian script proceeding from their Russian forms since Russian is the language of communication of the Soviet peoples. The Russian forms of non-Russian names represent their original spelling and phonetics rather accurately and systematically due to (a) the closeness of the Russian alphabet to those of the majority of the other languages of the Soviet Union and (b) the detailed rules elaborated for the rendering of geographical names from each given language into Russian.

The development of special rules for the Romanization of each national language is a matter of the future.