3. An assimilated sound is expressed by the first consonant of the syllable that follows it.

    Yokkaiti

    Sapporo

4. A long vowel is expressed by adding the mark ˆ above the vowel concerned.

    Akô

    Kôbe

    Tenryû

When the vowel concerned or the whole word is written in capital letter or letters, the system of repeating the vowel may be used instead of the first method.

    Oosaka or OOSAKA

5. Whatever system is convenient to the writer may be used for expressing a special sound (e.g. foreign word).

6. A capital letter is used for the first letter of the first word in a sentence and for the first letter of a proper noun.

    Tôkyô

    Kore ga Huzisan desu.

Capital letters may also be used for the first letters of nouns other than proper nouns.

    Tizu (map)

    Sinsetu (kindness)

CONVERSION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES FROM ONE WRITING SYSTEM TO ANOTHER

Paper presented by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics *

The problem of conversion of names from one writing system to another involves several separate problems:

(*a*) Conversion from some alphabetic writing systems to other alphabetic writing systems;

(*b*) Conversion from non-alphabetic writing systems to alphabetic writing systems;

(*c*) Conversion from alphabetic writing systems to non-alphabetic writing systems.

(*d*) Conversion from some non-alphabetic writing systems to other non-alphabetic writing systems.

In all cases the identity of conversion systems, their reversibility and stability are of much importance. Correspondingly, in all cases system developers are faced with the presence of more or less numerous national, departmental and international conversion systems having currency within various spheres of communication.

The problem of romanization of the Cyrillic alphabet has been discussed at all previous United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names without being finally solved. The situation has now changed.

In 1978 the countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) accepted the standard No. 1362-78 "Romanization system for the Cyrillic alphabet" (known as the COMECON standard), which in May 1980 was adopted as the state standard of the USSR (GOST 16876-71). Because of the stable traditions characterizing the different languages expressed in Cyrillic, the elaboration of a universal conversion system for all spheres of usage has so far turned out to be an unresolved problem. The CMEA countries therefore agreed upon the introduction into standard use of two conversion systems: one by means of monographs with diacritical marks (variant 1) and another by means of digraphs (variant 2). The choice of one or the other variant is made by the user. The standard sets up Roman equivalents for Cyrillic letters used in Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Bulgarian, Mongolian, Serbo-Croatian and Macedonian. For some letters variant 1 permits the use of clusters of letters as a concession to national traditions.

Introduction of the standard into practice in the Soviet Union has provided a final solution to the problem of

romanization of USSR place-names for cartographic needs. Since 1981 Soviet cartographic publications intended for international use have applied the romanization system which is presented as the basic variant in the above-mentioned standard, namely:

Russian letter	*Roman letter*	*Russian letter*	*Roman letter*
а	a	р	r
б	b	с	s
в	v	т	t
г	g	у	u
д	d	ф	f
е	e	х	h
ё	ē	ц	c
ж	ž	ч	č
з	z	ш	š
и	i	щ	ŝ
й	j	ъ	"
к	k	ы	y
л	l	ь	'
м	m	э	è
н	n	ю	û
о	o	я	â
п	p	apostrophe	' '

The names of all the republics of the Soviet Union except Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are transposed from their spelling in Russian. The names of the Soviet Baltic republics are presented in their national spelling.

If a cartographic publication is ordered by another country or if it is used as a teaching aid for non-Russian students, the place-names in such a publication are transcribed or transliterated in accordance with the language rules of the country concerned, or the language of teaching. As an example, in the atlases used in Hungarian schools in Western Ukraine Russian and other names are rendered in accordance with the orthography of the Hungarian language.

It can thus be stated that the elaboration of a romanization system for the Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian languages has been accomplished.

As for the other Cyrillic languages of the USSR, the development of a romanization system for them is in its early stages and will require time.