

New York, 5-16 March 1973

WORKING GROUP ON A SINGLE ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR EACH  
NON-ROMAN WRITING SYSTEM - MINUTES OF SECOND MEETING - 8 MARCH 1973

1. It was agreed that Mr. Page would serve as the expert with responsibility for Persian.
  2. Certain aspects of the problem dealt with in Working Paper No. 10 might come within the province of the Working Group, but it was agreed to await the outcome of full discussion of this paper by the Group of Experts.
  3. In discussion of Working Paper No. 12, there was further consideration of the donor/receiver principle as regards romanization. It was agreed that in cases where agreement on a single system was not possible the best solution attainable in present circumstances would be compromise of the sort illustrated by resolution 5 of the London Conference concerning Bulgarian.
  4. In discussion of Working Paper No. 14, it was agreed that the question of a single international phonetic alphabet for the writing of geographical names was beyond the terms of reference of the Working Group.
  5. The draft romanization system for the Greek alphabet (Working Paper No. 13) prepared, in collaboration with Cyprus, by a special commission within the Greek Ministry of Culture was, with minor editorial additions, acceptable to the Working Group as an international system for the transliteration of Greek.
  6. Despite the appearance of four new systems for the transliteration of Arabic in Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, the Working Group still believed strongly in the desirability of having a single uniform transliteration system applicable in all the countries of the Arab world. The hope was expressed that the Arab League would give further consideration to this matter.
  7. With regard to the amended Beirut system for the transliteration of Arabic recommended under resolution 9 of the London Conference, the Working Group agreed a finalized test of the table to be annexed to the resolution in the printed Report of the London Conference.
- The minority view was expressed by Mr. Al-Fayez that a more appropriate transliteration of the Arabic letter  $\text{ج}$  would be  $\text{DJ}$ .
8. The report of the Iran-Afghanistan Regional Meeting on the transliteration of Persian and Pashtu geographical names was studied with interest. It was noted that resolution 13 of the Geneva Conference concerning the romanization of Iranian geographical names was still valid, and the Working Group recommended that the next Iran-Afghanistan regional meeting would continue to study the possibility of reaching agreement on a uniform transliteration of Persian names in the two countries and on transliteration of the additional letters of the Pashtu alphabet.

Mr. Page offered to provide comparative tables of existing transliteration systems for Persian and Pashtu to assist the Working Group in their studies. It was agreed that all documents and circulars pertaining to this question should be sent to Mr. Yaghoubi at the Department of Cartography in Kabul. The Iran-Afghanistan Regional Meeting would keep the Working Group informed of developments.

9. The Minutes of the First Meeting of the Working Group at the fifth session (Working Paper No. 26) were approved with minor amendments.

10. The Working Group expressed its willingness, subject to final decision by the Group of Experts to take into consideration problems raised by new alphabets and changed orthographies as far as these affected the standardization of geographical names.

11. The Working Group expressed the hope that there might be rapid implementation of resolution 13 of the London Conference concerning publication of international romanization systems already agreed.