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U.S.--DEPT. OF STATE--
OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER
ROMANIZATION GUIDE

Romanization Guide



Based on the systems as used by the
STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

For

ARABIC

BULGARIAN

CHINESE

FAEROESE

GREEK

HEBREW

ICELANDIC

JAPANESE

KOREAN

MONGOLIAN

NEPALI

PERSIAN

RUSSIAN

**SERBO-
CROATIAN**

THAI

ROMANIZATION GUIDE

(Replaces Transliteration Guide issued
August 1961 by the Department of State)

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July 1964

FOREWORD

The first edition of this Guide, published in 1961 under the title "Transliteration Guide", brought together for use throughout the Department of State and the Foreign Service the romanization systems then officially adopted and used by the United States Board on Geographic Names, and has proved of value in advancing standardization. An act of Congress requires that the rulings of the BGN be used for geographic names in all material published by the United States Government. The systems are equally applicable to personal names and to general use outside the Government. The Foreign Affairs Manual, Vol. 5, 213.6 states that this Guide has been distributed to all posts, and that the BGN systems in it should be used for romanization from writing systems other than the roman alphabet except at posts at which non-roman-alphabet writing systems are of only indirect or occasional concern.

Beginning in 1947 with joint adoption of the system for Russian, the BGN and its British counterpart, the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN), have agreed on an increasing number of romanization systems. These are designated "BGN/PCGN" and further identified by the year in which jointly adopted.

In this 1964 Romanization Guide there have been added the BGN/PCGN 1962 System for Greek, the BGN/PCGN 1962 System for Mongolian, BGN/PCGN 1964 System for Nepali, notes on the application of the BGN/PCGN 1963 System for Thai and a statement on the treatment of Faeroese Ð , ð . The system for romanization of Hebrew has been revised.

Explanatory notes have been added to several tables in this edition and captions have been reworded in a number of cases to facilitate use of the tables by persons with widely differing degrees of knowledge of the languages involved.

The systems and names derived by them are used in extensive and expanding sets of BGN gazetteers, geographic dictionaries, biographic directories and NIS publications, as well as in Department of State memoranda, papers, bulletins and reports, including Geographic Reports, International Boundary Studies, and Geographic Bulletins produced by the Office of The Geographer. The observance of the BGN systems for all purposes throughout the Department and the Foreign Service will provide for consistency in Departmental publications and communications.

The Board on Geographic Names consists of members from 12 Government departments and agencies; the Department of State is represented by The Geographer (INR/RES/GE), whose office serves as the Department's liaison with the BGN.