CASE NO. 10

ARTICLE 14, PARAGRAPH (3), SECTION (C) : METHOD TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN FORMING A TRIVIAL NAME BASED UPON THE SURNAME OF A RUSSIAN WOMAN ON THE TRANSLITERATION OF THAT NAME FROM THE CYRILLIC ALPHABET TO THE LATIN ALPHABET (Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)266)

DOCUMENT 10/1

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Extract from a letter dated 18th September, 1946

Editorial Note : I discussed this question with Dr. Dougherty when he came to see me in August 1948, and he then added the following note to the File: "This point should be considered in relation to the suggestion by Bonnet in regard to the same question. I agree with Bonnet". The paper by Professor Bonnet here referred to is his Proposition 5, consideration of which was deferred by the International Commission at its Session held in Paris in 1948. For an extract of the relevant portion of Professor Bonnet's proposal, see Document 10/2 (initialled) F.H. 28th May, 1953.

In dealing with Article 14, point (c), I have been perplexed as to the manner of interpretation of part of the sentence dealing with modern patronymics. Paragraph 3, part c, begins as follows : "If the name is a modern patronymic, the genitive is always formed by adding to the exact and complete name, an i if the person is a man, or an ae if the person is a woman, even if the name has a Latin form..." Now procedure as regards the male patronymic is clear to me, but certain female patronymics offer difficulty. Let us suppose that a woman's surname ends in an a—e.g., Andreeva or Andreeva (from the Russian Андреева); according to a strict reading of the quoted sentence the trivial name formed from this patronymic should be andreevae or andreevaae. But is such really meant by Article 14? Would not andreevae or andreevaae be more logical—in other words adding of an e rather than ae to feminine patronymics already ending in a? This Russian name brings up a further problem. A number of recent Soviet systematists—apparently perplexed by the problem already outlined—have solved it neatly, but, I presume, illegally, simply by using the Russian genitive in transliteration. The Russian genitive of Андреева Андреевой—Andreevoi or Andreewoi in transliteration. There is for example a nematode species Kutassicusculus (or Otostrongylus) andreevoi. Must the trivial name in this case be emended, and, if so, should it become andreevaae, or andreevae?