

2011 Commission Report

BAJA CALIFORNIA

The two groups representing the Grand Lodge of Baja California have now worked out an agreement that has unified them again into one regular Grand Lodge. The leaders of the two groups have signed the agreement, and have assured it will be ratified by both groups. The Grand Lodge of Baja California has now satisfied the standards for recognition.

BULGARIA

There continues to be no progress in the unification of Freemasonry in Bulgaria. Since they have previously been determined to meet the standards for recognition, there is no interest on the part of the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria in entering discussions with the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Bulgaria, either for unification or for establishing a treaty to share the jurisdiction. Both of these Grand Lodges appear to practice regular Masonry, and both were of the same origin until they split in 2001. This Commission has urged the two Grand Lodges to resolve their differences for the past seven years to no avail; therefore this issue will not be addressed again until the brethren in Bulgaria reach some type of agreement.

CYPRUS

The United Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Cyprus have reached an accord whereby they will both share the jurisdiction of Cyprus, and have established fraternal relations among themselves. The Grand Lodge of Cyprus therefore now meets all the standards for recognition.

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic informed us that an irregular body calling itself the Czech National Grand Lodge was recently created by a group of dissident members who defected and formed this new organization. This group should not be given any consideration for recognition, as the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic is the only Grand Lodge there that meets the standards for recognition.

MONACO

The Grande Loge Nationale Reguliere de la Principaute de Monaco was consecrated on February 19, 2011, by the United Grand Lodge of England in association with the Grand Lodge of Germany and the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise. It appears this new Grand Lodge will meet the standards for recognition, and will be entitled to consideration by our Grand Lodges when requested.

ROMANIA

The National Grand Lodge of Romania has informed us that a group of Masons expelled from the United National Grand Lodge of Romania, which itself is not recognized, have formed an association called National Grand Lodge Romania 1880. This group is in no way connected to, or sanctioned by the National Grand Lodge of Romania, which is the only Grand Lodge there that meets the standards for recognition.

SPAIN

A request was received from the Gran Logia Simbolica de Espana e Iberia to review their credentials for Masonic recognition. Although they appear to practice regular Masonry, they did not provide the origin of the lodges that compose this Grand Lodge. More importantly, they do not have a treaty or compact to share the jurisdiction with the Grand Lodge of Spain; therefore, they do not meet the standards for recognition established by this Conference. At this time, the Grand Lodge of Spain is the only Grand Lodge here that meets the standards for recognition.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. Inquiries have been received about the charter granted to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA from the Grand Priory of the Scottish Rectified and Reformed Rite of Occitania located in France. According to the Grand Encampment website, this charter has been used to establish a Grand Priory of the Reformed and Rectified Rite of the United States of America and to confer the Grades of the Rectified Scottish Rite. This new Grand Priory has been established and grades have been conferred on candidates; however, correspondence issued by the regular Great Priors of the Rectified Scottish Rite in Europe states the Grand Priory of Occitania is an irregular body. It was self-created in 1995 by former members of the Grand Priory of Gauls, which was declared irregular by the

Grande Loge Nationale Francaise, and its members expelled. The Grand Priory of Occitania, according to its own documentation maintains mutual recognition with only the following Grand Lodges: the Symbolic Grand Lodge of France, the United Grand Lodge of France, and the Grand Orient of Switzerland, all of which are irregular. It also only maintains recognition with the Great Priories of Gauls, the Independent Great Priory of France, and the United Great Priories of the Three Provinces, all of which are irregular bodies. The Great Priory of Occitania, after its formation in 1995, then formed its own grand lodge, the Reformed and Rectified Scottish Grand Lodge of Occitania, which is equally irregular. This Commission does not normally concern itself with the affairs of appendant bodies; however, it is concerned about the negative impact on the established system of regularity in North American Freemasonry that may be caused by members of our Grand Lodges setting a precedent by becoming affiliated with organizations that receive their charter from an irregular source.

2. A group has surfaced with a website named, Masonicleaks.com. Their stated purpose is that it is time to hold the actions of Grand Lodges and their officers accountable to the Masonic world as a whole. They intend to post a new leak once a week for the next few months. The leaks appear to be stories from members who feel they have been wronged by the trial system of their Grand Lodge or by decisions of their Grand Master.
3. An organization is being incorporated in the state of Wisconsin named "The Foundation of Universal Freemasonry", which states it is a Confederation of Independent Masonic Lodges dedicated to the cause of universal Freemasonry. In their draft statement of principles, one article states, "Every Freemason is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Statement of Principles, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." Another article states, "The Annual communication shall have an altar upon which will be placed A Blank Book, The Atheists Bible, and The World Scriptures." You may view this in its entirety at, scribe@TheFoundationOfUniversalFreemasonry.org.