

**REPORTS OF THE
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION
FOR RECOGNITION
2004 - 2019**

AS SUBMITTED TO

**The Conference of Grand Masters of
Masons in North America**



**Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in N.A.
%Grand Masonic Center
36275 Sunset Drive
Dousman, WI 53118
www.cogmna.info**

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION

February 18, 2019

TO THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA:

MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER CHAIRMAN:

MOST WORSHIPFUL AND RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BRETHREN:

It is my honor as Chairman of this Commission to present the 67th annual report of the Commission on Information for Recognition. At this time I am pleased to present the other members of this Commission in the order of length of service:

M.W. Raymond C. Lemons, Past Grand Master of Michigan

M.W. Joe R. Manning, Jr, Past Grand Master of Oklahoma

M.W. Glen A. Cook, Past Grand Master of Utah

M.W. Jorge L. Aladro, Past Grand Master of Florida

M.W. Richard Stewart, Past Grand Master of Massachusetts

M.W. Richard A. H. Brown, Past Grand Master of Saskatchewan

M.W. Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master of Tennessee, Secretary-Treasurer
and I am William J. Bray, III, Past Grand Master of California, Chairman.

Since the delegates to this Conference change each year, I would like to repeat the standards for recognition adopted for our guidance when the Commission was formed in 1952. These are the guidelines used to evaluate the regularity of a Grand Lodge, and thereby determine whether it is worthy of consideration for recognition by our member Grand Lodges. This Commission provides this data for use by our Grand Lodges, and does not attempt to influence or recommend what action should be taken. The Commission serves you in an investigative and advisory capacity only.

The standards for recognition are summarized as follows:

1. Legitimacy of origin.
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks - specifically, a Belief in God, the Volume of the Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion.

Applying these standards to the requests of several Grand Lodges during our deliberations, we now share the following information:

Brazil State Grand Orients

The Grande Orient de Minas Gerais and the Grand Oriente de Mato Grosso do Sul were each recognized by and treaties signed with their respective State Grand Lodges in 2018. Each of these bodies are also recognized by the CMI. It would be reasonable to assume that these grand orientes are practicing regular Masonry and recognition would be appropriate if you so desire.

Grand Lodge of Royal Art (Romania)

The Grand Chancellor of this grand lodge, R/W Dragos Ionut Onescu contacted the Commission in a timely manner to pursue recognition. No representative from this grand lodge was present at the 2019 Commission meeting. There is no evidence available to indicate that this grand lodge meets any of the standards for recognition.

Additional Information

1. Representatives of both entities identifying themselves as the Gran Logia Simbolica Del Paraguay spoke briefly before the Commission. The Commission's position remains the same as reported in recent reports of the Commission.
2. The current address of the Grand Lodge of Benito Juarez of the state of Coahuila R.E.A.A. is:
Bahia de Ballenas #933
Col. Nueva California
Torreon CP 27089
Coahuila, Mexico

REMINDER: The deadline for reports filed with the Commission is December 1. We will not accept any new material for consideration after this date.

I now call on M/W Joe C. Harrison for the financial report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TO: THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF
MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA

This report is an accounting of the funds of the Commission on Information for the period just past, ending January 31, 2019. Since January 1, 2018, *thirty-two (32)* Grand Lodges have contributed \$1,950.00.

BALANCE ON JANUARY 31, 2018:..... \$ 4,477.66

Receipts from Grand Lodges received between January 1, 2018 and January 31, 2019:

Alabama	\$ 50.00
Alaska	15.00
California	100.00
Canada – Ontario	30.00
Canada – Saskatchewan	30.00
Delaware	50.00
Florida	100.00
Idaho	15.00
Illinois	100.00
Iowa	50.00
Japan	100.00
Louisiana	100.00
Maine	50.00
Massachusetts	100.00
Michigan	100.00
Minnesota	50.00
Mississippi	50.00
Missouri	100.00
Nebraska	50.00
Nevada	15.00
New Mexico	15.00
New York	100.00
North Carolina	100.00
Ohio	100.00

Pennsylvania	100.00
South Carolina	100.00
South Dakota	15.00
Texas	100.00
Virginia	100.00
West Virginia	50.00
Wisconsin	50.00
Wyoming	15.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>\$1,950.00</u>
Sub-Total	\$6427.66

Expenses between January 1, 2018 and January 31, 2019:

Conference and Travel Expense	\$2,527.42
Printing Annual Report	355.00
Postage and Stamps	231.90
Secretarial Services	00.00
Website	00.00
Office Supplies / Photo Copies	<u>243.29</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3357.61

BALANCE AS OF January 31, 2019 \$3070.05

Respectfully submitted,

Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master
Secretary-Treasurer

M. W. Bro. Harrison, thank you for the report.

The Conference Nominating Committee submitted the name of M.W. Dave Worrel, Past Grand Master of Alaska as the new member of the Commission, and he was duly elected by the Conference. The normal term of service for a new Commission member is seven years.

The organization of the Commission for the year 2019 will be:

CHAIRMAN

M.W. Raymond C. Lemons
Past Grand Master of Michigan

VICE-CHAIRMAN

M.W. Joe R. Manning, Jr.
Past Grand Master of Oklahoma

SECRETARY-TREASURER

M.W. Joe C. Harrison
Past Grand Master of Tennessee

Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren, my sincere thanks for your attention and for the opportunity to serve this Conference. This concludes the 67th annual report of this Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

William J Bray, III, PGM, Chairman

Raymond C. Lemons, PGM

Joe R. Manning, Jr, PGM

Glen A. Cook, PGM

Jorge L. Aladro, PGM

Richard Stewart, PGM

Richard A. H. Brown, PGM

Joe C. Harrison, PGM, Sec/Treas.

I move the acceptance of the report.

2018 Commission Report

Grand Lodge of the Principality Liechtenstein

Representatives of the Grand Lodge of Liechtenstein appeared before the Commission in 2017 to request a finding of regularity from the Commission. At that time, they were informed that the Commission would study the matter further and provide an update at the 2018 conference. After further study and hearing comments from numerous delegations at our 2018 meeting, the Commission finds that the Grand Lodge of the Principality Liechtenstein does not meet the standards for recognition.

Grand Lodge Valle De Mexico

A request for a finding of regularity was received from the Grand Lodge Valle De Mexico. In the absence of sufficient evidence upon which to base a ruling, action on this request is postponed until such time that a more informed decision can be made.

The Grand Lodge of Baja California

In 2013, the Commission reported that there continues to be two groups that claim to be the legitimate Grand Lodge of Baja California. After further review, we would like to see both sides reconciled, however the Grand Lodge of Baja California, under Grand Master Carlos Manuel Lura Herrera currently meets the standards for recognition. No additional information has been provided to alter that position.

The Grand Lodge of Paraguay

In 2005, the Grand Master of Paraguay was suspended by an appendant body. Pursuant to treaty, this led to his suspension from symbolic or craft Masonry. In 2006, there was a schism in Paraguayan Masonry. For a number of years, attempts were made to reconcile the two grand lodges. In 2014, when such efforts repeatedly failed, this Commission found that the newer grand lodge met the standards for recognition. This was, in part, because the prior Grand Lodge did not demonstrate sovereignty, as an appendant body functionally controlled the craft. The Commission has now been presented evidence that in 2017, a new treaty was entered into with the appendant body, preserving the sovereignty of the craft. While both grand lodges appear to be practicing regular Freemasonry, before the Commission makes further recommendations, we encourage both parties to discuss a treaty to share the jurisdiction regardless of whether they formally recognize one another Masonically.

Other Information

Africa

The Commission has been informed that the sovereign jurisdictions of the Grand Lodges of the Congo, Cameroon and the Ivory Coast have been invaded by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Additional information will be provided on this matter as it becomes available.

REMINDER: The deadline for reports filed with the Commission is December 1. We will not accept any new material for consideration after this date.

2017 Commission Report

Brazil State Grand Orients

The Grande Oriente do Parana, the Grand Oriente do Santa Catarina, the Grand Oriente do Rio Grande do Sul and the Grand Oriente do Mato Gross were each recognized by and treaties signed with their respective State Grand Lodges in August/September of 2016. Each of these bodies are now recognized by the CMI. It would be reasonable to assume that these grand orientes are practicing regular Masonry.

Confederation of Grand Orients Jose de La Cruz Porfirio Diaz Mori - Puebla, Mexico

At this time, the Commission has received no evidence to suggest that this grand lodge is practicing regular Masonry.

Grand Lodge of Liechtenstein

While the Grand Lodge of Liechtenstein appears to meet the requirements for recognition, your Commission will study the matter further and will provide an update at the 2018 Conference.

Grand Lodge of the State of Mexico

The Grand Lodge of the State of Mexico is not a member of the CMI. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the Commission finds that the Grand Lodge of the State of Mexico does not meet the requirements for recognition.

Grande Loge Nationale Malienne

A schism has occurred within the Grand Lodge of Mali. A splinter group has broken off and created a second grand lodge using the same name: "Grande Loge Nationale Malienne". This group is also using almost the same email address. The Grande Loge Nationale Malienne is a regular grand lodge consecrated by the Grand Lodge of the Ivory Coast in 1999. The Grand Master of the legitimate Grande Loge Nationale Malienne is M.:W.: Bro Boubacar KEITA. The correct email address is: glnm.mali@gmail.com

Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan

After hearing presentations from the Grand Lodge of Russia, the founding grand lodge, and the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan, the Commission finds that the Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan appears to meet the requirements for recognition.

Grand Lodge of the Republic of Georgia

In reference to the 2016 Commission report regarding the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Georgia, we are informed that additional information concerning this grand lodge will be forthcoming over the next 12 – 14 months. We expect to report on this matter at the 2019 Conference.

A great many Grand Lodges continue to appear in North America each year which do not meet the standards for recognition. Further, most of these grand lodges make no effort to achieve regularity or even establish a relationship with the regular grand lodges into whose jurisdiction they have inserted themselves. The Commission urges great vigilance in establishing relationships with new grand lodges that do not exist in the List of Lodges-Masonic, published by Pantagraph, in Bloomington, Ill.

REMINDER: The deadline for reports filed with the Commission is December 1. We will not accept any new material for consideration after this date.

2016 Commission Report

Grand Lodge of Georgia

The Grand Lodge of Georgia, formed by three regular lodges in Georgia, was consecrated by the Grand Lodge of Russia on March 14, 2015. The Grand Lodge of Georgia filed, in a timely manner, a request with the Commission to be examined for regularity. However, at the February 22 meeting of the Commission, the M.:W.: Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Russia, M.:W.: Andrey Bogdanov requested that the matter be tabled until the 2017 meeting of the Commission. There were no representatives from the Grand Lodge of Georgia in attendance at the Commission meeting. This request was granted.

Bulgaria

After many years of negotiations, legislation by which the Grand Lodge AFAM of Bulgaria would become part of the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria (UGLB) was ratified on June 20, 2015. The UGLB suggests that the resulting grand lodge is composed of 4000 Masons with 119 lodges practicing regular Masonry. The Commission would like to congratulate the UGLB on this monumental accomplishment, 15 years in the making and extend its best wishes for a bright future for Masonry in Bulgaria. There are however other groups of Masons in Bulgaria who wish to become part of this unification movement. It is hoped that in the near future, we can report that all Masonry in Bulgaria is unified under one grand lodge.

King James Supreme Grand Lodge AF & AM Scottish Rites, Inc. of Miami, Florida

The King James Supreme Grand Lodge AF & AM Scottish Rites, Inc of Miami, FL, a self-formed grand lodge without treaty with the Grand Lodge of Florida, contacted the Commission to inquire how they might become a regular grand lodge. They were advised of the requirements for recognition as adopted by our Conference in 1952 and directed to the Commission website. Further communications with this group verified that they do not pass the test of Legitimacy of Origin nor do they have a treaty to share the territory of the state of Florida. There being no representative to speak on behalf of this group, the Commission took no further action on this matter.

Additional Information

Quintanna Roo

In 2014, the Commission stated in its report, to determine the regularity of Mexican and Latin American Grand Lodges, The Commission relies heavily on the Confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of Mexico (CMI) which provides a list of regular grand lodges in that country. That list of regular grand lodges does not include the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Quintanna Roo. The current list of regular grand lodges provided by the CMI includes the name of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Quintanna Roo and therefore considers it to be practicing regular Masonry.

Paraguay

In 2014, the Commission stated in its report: Over the last six years, the Commission has continued to study the split in the Grand Lodge of Paraguay that resulted in two grand lodges [with similar names and addresses]. The information the Commission has gathered leads it to the conclusion that the Grand Lodge Symbolica whose Grand Master is M.:W.: Bro. Euclides, is the only Grand Lodge in Paraguay that meets the standards for recognition. The Commissions position on this matter is unchanged. This is the regular grand lodge. The current Grand Master of the Symbolic Grand Lodge of Paraguay is M.:W.: Bro. Edgar Sanchez Caballero. The address of that grand lodge is: Gran Logia Simbolica Del Paraguay Avda. de la Victoria No 690 esq Lopez Moreira Asuncion - Paraguay

A great many Grand Lodges continue to appear in North America each year which do not meet the standards for recognition. Further, most of these grand lodges make no effort to achieve regularity or even establish a relationship with the regular grand lodges into whose jurisdiction they have inserted themselves.

The Commission urges great vigilance in establishing relationships with new grand lodges that do not exist in the List of Lodges-Masonic, published by Pantagraph, in Bloomington, Ill.

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2015 Commission Report

Grande Oriente Paulista in Brazil

Historically, there have been two recognized systems of Masonry in Brazil. One system consists of the Grand Orient of Brazil, and the other system consists of the individual state Grand Lodges in Brazil. However, there is a new third system operating in Brazil consisting of independent state Grand Orients. They are not recognized by the Grand Orient of Brazil or by the individual state Grand Lodges in Brazil. At this time, the Commission has no evidence that the independent state Grand Orients meet the standards for recognition. It may be that in the future, an agreement of mutual recognition among the several Grand Lodges in Brazil will resolve many of the questions concerning recognition in that country.

United Grand Lodges of Serbia

The United Grand Lodges of Serbia (UGLS) contacted the Commission in a timely manner and requested to make a presentation before the Commission in Vancouver. However, on February 11 an email was received by the Commission stating that the UGLS representatives would not be attending the conference in Vancouver. The Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia, headed by Grand Master Ranko Vujacic, is still considered to be the legitimate extension of regular Masonry in that country.

Grand Lodge of Egypt

A representative of the Grand Lodge of Egypt contacted the Commission to inquire about the process of making a presentation to the Commission. This information was provided but nothing further has been received from Egypt

Bulgaria

It has been noted that Freemasonry in Bulgaria is progressing toward unification, possibly as early as June 2015. The Commission extends its best wishes to those working on behalf of Freemasonry in Bulgaria.

Additional Information

The following is provided as information for those who are interested.

The Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc. maintains a list of its Grand Lodges at: conferenceofgrandmasterspha.org. Click the link entitled Grand Jurisdiction Links to view this list.

IMPORTANT: Out of respect to our sister Grand Lodges, be advised that several of our member Grand Lodges do not recognize Prince Hall Masonry in their Grand Jurisdictions.

A great many Grand Lodges continue to appear in North America each year which do not meet the standards for recognition. Further, most of these Grand Lodges make no effort to achieve regularity or even establish a relationship with the regular Grand Lodges into whose jurisdiction they have inserted themselves. The Commission urges great vigilance in establishing relationships with new Grand Lodges that do not exist in the List of Lodges-Masonic, published by Pantagraph, in Bloomington, Ill.

REMINDER: The deadline for reports filed with the Commission is December 1. We will not accept any new material for consideration after this date.

2014 Commission Report

Quintana Roo

The Commission relies heavily on the Confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of Mexico which provides a list of regular Grand Lodges in that country and that list of regular Grand Lodges does not include the "Sovereign Grand Lodge of Quintana Roo".

Valle De Mexico

As a result of several inquiries concerning the Grand Lodge Valle De Mexico, the Commission finds that the Valle De Mexico does not meet the standards for recognition. Over the last decade, it has been reported that they have invaded the territory of a number of neighboring grand lodges. They are not recognized by any regular Grand Lodges in Mexico or Latin America.

Grand Orient of Haiti - 1824

Several inquiries were received concerning the regular Grand Orient of Haiti - 1824. Based upon the most recent correspondence received from multiple sources, the Commission believes the Grand Orient of Haiti constituted in 1824, whose current Grand Master is M.: W.: Yves Benoit Jean Marie and Grand Secretary is Bro. Smith Barthelus, is the regular Grand Lodge in Haiti. The address is 202, Rue du Magasin de L'Etat, Haiti. At this point the Commission cannot provide any additional information.

Cuba

Grand Lodges in North America have received letters from the Grand Lodge of Cuba, regarding a new Grand Lodge in Florida which is supposed to be named "United Grand Lodge of Cubans in the Exterior". The letter requests support for this new Grand Lodge. The Commission would advise that the decision to share jurisdictions with the Grand Lodge of Florida is a decision which must be made by the Grand Lodge of Florida.

Brazil

Historically, there have been two recognized systems of Masonry in Brazil. One system consists of the Grand Orient of Brazil, and the other system consists of the individual state Grand Lodges in Brazil. However, there is a new third system operating in Brazil consisting of independent state Grand Orients. They are not recognized by the Grand Orient of Brazil or by the individual state Grand Lodges in Brazil. At this time, the Commission has no evidence that the independent state Grand Orients meet the standards for recognition.

Paraguay

Over the last six years, the Commission has continued to study the split in the Grand Lodge of Paraguay that resulted in the two Grand Lodges. The information the Commission has gathered leads it to the conclusion that the Grand Lodge Symbolic whose Grand Master is M.: W.: Bro Euclides, is the only Grand Lodge in Paraguay that meets the standards for recognition.

Bulgaria

The situation in Bulgaria has become more complex. A third Grand Lodge known as the Grand Lodge of Bulgaria, was created around the year 2011. It appears to have been consecrated by the unrecognized Grand Lodge of France. This third Grand Lodge has subsequently split into two Grand Lodges. The Commission received a letter dated December 20, 2013 from the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Bulgaria proposing an agreement between the Grand Lodge AF & AM of Bulgaria, Dr. Valeri Mitkov Grand Master, the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria, Dr. Ivan Sariiev Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge of Bulgaria, Dr. Slaveyke Gospodinov Grand Master. The Commission will watch with interest the outcome of this agreement and report the outcome at the 2015 Conference.

France

It appears that the administrative problems within the Grande Loge Nationale Française (GLNF) have been

resolved. Other constitutional changes will be voted on in April of 2014. In the 2012 report of the Commission, it stated that a "reasonable course of action to consider is to suspend fraternal relations with the GLNF." Based on the resolution of the administrative problems, member Grand Lodges may desire to reconsider that suspension. The Commission would also extend its thanks to the five central European Grand Lodges (Germany, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Belgium) for their efforts to help resolve the issues in France.

Additional Information

A great many "Grand Lodges" continue to appear in North America each year which do not meet the standards for recognition. Further, most of these Grand Lodges make no effort to achieve regularity or even establish a relationship with the regular Grand Lodges into whose jurisdiction they have inserted themselves. The Commission urges great vigilance in establishing relationships with new Grand Lodges that do not exist in the List of Lodges - Masonic, published by Pantagraph, in Bloomington, Ill.

2013 Commission Report

BAJA CALIFORNIA

There continues to be two groups that claim to be the legitimate Grand Lodge of Baja California. After further review, we would like to see both sides reconciled, however the Grand Lodge of Baja California, under Grand Master Jose' Guzman currently meets the standards for recognition.

BOLIVIA

Groups of Masons in two states in Bolivia have declared the existence of the Grand Lodges of Cochabamba and La Paz. However, the Grand Lodge of Bolivia, a national Grand Lodge, has territorial jurisdiction over the country of Bolivia and is the only Grand Lodge that meets the standards for recognition in Bolivia.

BULGARIA

After a lengthy review of the information available on Masonry in Bulgaria, the Commission is of the opinion that a reasonable course of action to consider is to suspend fraternal relations with both the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Bulgaria and the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria until such time that a resolution is perfected between these two Grand Lodges.

GRANDE LOGE NATIONALE FRANCAISE

Progress is being made in the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF). New elections were held last fall resulting in the installation of Jean-Pierre Servel as Grand Master. Civil authorities have relinquished control back to the Grand Lodge.

MEXICO

Due to a split that occurred in the early 1990's, there are two Grand Lodges in the state of Coahuila Mexico using the name Gran Logia "Benito Juarez" del Estado de Coahuila. We will continue to monitor this matter and report in the future.

PARAGUAY

Matters of recognition in Paraguay are still in question. One Grand Lodge led by Grand Master Quinonez is reported to be closely connected with the Supreme Council of Paraguay. The Interamerican Masonic Confederation recommends and the United Grand Lodge of England recognizes the Grand Lodge led by Grand Master Euclides. The Commission will continue to study this mater and report in the future.

OTHER

The International Free & Accepted Modern Masons, Inc. of Detroit is a "Masonic" organization covering Craft Masonry, Order of Eastern Star, Scottish Rite and Shrine admitting both men and women. They were self-chartered in 1950 and have recently created a web page providing information about itself. They meet none of the standards for recognition.

1. A reminder from last year, the deadline for reports filed with the Commission is December 1. We will not accept any new material for consideration after this date.

2012 Commission Report

ALBANIA

The Grand Lodge of Albania was consecrated on October 14, 2011 in Tirana by the Grand Orient of Italy. It is composed of three lodges previously warranted by the Grand Orient of Italy. It has adopted the Ritual and Book of Constitution of the Grand Orient, the Principles for Grand Lodges Recognition accepted by the United Grand Lodge of England, as well as the "Aims and Relationships of the Craft" of the UGLE. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Albania meets the standards for recognition.

BAJA CALIFORNIA

It was reported last year that the two groups representing the Grand Lodge of Baja California had worked out an accord that would have unified them again into one regular Grand Lodge. The leaders of the two groups signed the agreement, termed the Denver Accord, and were confident it would be ratified by both groups. This did not happen; therefore the Grand Lodge of Baja California remains two separate organizations, and neither satisfies the standards for recognition.

BULGARIA

There continues to be no progress in the unification of Freemasonry in Bulgaria. The Commission received submissions from both Grand Lodges, but there appears to be 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 eight years to no avail; therefore this issue will not be addressed again until the brethren in Bulgaria reach some type of agreement that will meet the standards for recognition.

GRANDE LOGE NATIONALE FRANCAISE

The difficult situation involving the GLNF was reviewed in great detail from data presented to the Commission, as well as statements from parties explaining both sides of the issues. It was reported that some 28 regular Grand Lodges, including six in the United States and one in Canada, have now suspended fraternal relations with the GLNF. Although the GLNF is still considered to be regular, there is a question of them meeting the standards for recognition. After much consideration, the Commission is of the opinion a reasonable course of action to consider is to suspend fraternal relations with the GLNF until such time a resolution to their crisis is achieved. New elections are scheduled in the near future, and it is hoped that a solution will be forthcoming.

PARAGUAY

The agreement of unification of the two Grand Lodges that was reached in 2010, has been broken, and the situation has reverted back to two Grand Lodges claiming to be the legitimate source of Freemasonry in that country. There is also evidence that negotiations for unification have ceased. This being the case, the Commission is of the opinion that neither Grand Lodge now meets the standards for recognition.

TAHITI

The Grand Lodge of Tahiti was constituted on December 21, 2011 from three lodges previously chartered by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise. Data was presented that indicates this new Grand Lodge practices regular Masonry and is a sovereign territory. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Tahiti meets the standards for recognition.

OTHER

1. Several last minute submissions to the Commission this year have resulted in unnecessary difficulty in getting the material to Commission members, leaving insufficient time to adequately study and research the subjects to be considered. In the future, any submissions to the Commission

must be received by December 1st in order to be considered at the annual meeting the following February.

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 the meets the standards for recognition.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. 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.

2. 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.

2010 Commission Report

BAJA CALIFORNIA

The two groups representing the Grand Lodge of Baja California agreed at the meeting of the Commission last year to sit down with the assistance of selected mediators and work for a resolution of their differences. This was accomplished and M :W :. Franco Magdaleno Soto representing one faction, and M :W :. Bro. Hector Pablo Meixueiro, representing the other faction signed the "California Agreement" which summarized the terms for unification of the two groups. Following that meeting, the Grand Lodge group headed by G.M. Soto ratified the agreement. The Grand Lodge group headed by G.M. Meixueiro would not concur with the agreement. During the year, several attempts to encourage completion of the ratification process were unsuccessful. Both Grand Masters attended the current meeting of the Commission, and both agreed to negotiate.

BOLIVIA

A new Grand Lodge has surfaced in Bolivia, named the Grand Lodge of York Rite for Bolivia, located in the Department (state) of Cochabamba. It was founded in June of 2008 and composed of members from the Grand Lodge of Bolivia. There is no evidence of them being constituted by a regular Grand Lodge, nor is there a pact or treaty that the Grand Lodge of Bolivia will share the jurisdiction with them. The claim of this Grand Lodge is that the Constitution of Bolivia gives them, and no one else, sovereignty in the Department of Cochabamba. It is suspected that this may be true politically, but not Masonically. This Grand Lodge has not been recognized by any other Grand Lodges, but they claim legitimacy by virtue of the fact that their members come from Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Bolivia, which is recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England. In view of the data presented, it is the opinion of the Commission that the Grand Lodge of York Rite for Bolivia does not meet the standards for recognition.

GRANDE ORIENTE PAULISTA of SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

The Grande Oriente Paulista has contacted the Commission as a prelude to establishing treaties of fraternal relations with member Grand Lodges of this Conference. This Grand Lodge was created from dissident Lodges of the Grand Orient of Brazil. They claim to have mutual consent with the Grand Lodge of Sao Paulo and the Grand Orient of Sao Paulo to share the jurisdiction of Sao Paulo, but no such documentation was presented. They claim to adhere to the ancient landmarks. They do not have recognition from any member Grand Lodges of this Conference, but they do claim to have recognition with York Rite Grand Chapters. Based on the data presented, it is the opinion of the Commission that the Grande Oriente Paulista of Sao Paulo does not meet the standards for recognition.

BULGARIA

A new Grand Master, Volodya Lozanov, has been elected and installed in the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Bulgaria. On behalf of his Grand Lodge, he is urgently requesting assistance in equitably removing the obstacles for unification of Freemasonry in Bulgaria. The Commission has been advocating action from both Grand Lodges toward their unification for the past five years, but to no avail. Grand Master Lozanov is requesting the appointment of international mediators to facilitate the process. For this to occur, the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria, now led by Grand Master Grigoriy Va:rov must agree to engage in such a process. Several members of European Grand Lodges, namely the National Grand Lodge of France, the United Grand Lodge of Germany, and the United Grand Lodge of England have indicated a willingness to participate in this effort, if requested. It is appropriate that such action be undertaken in the European Masonic community, as it will undoubtedly be beneficial to Masonry in Europe for this to occur.

CYPRESS

After the report of the Commission was distributed last year, a letter was received from the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Greece stating that the information given to the Commission that the Grand Lodge of Greece announced intentions of constituting another Lodge in Cyprus, is untrue. It has no such intentions, and maintains a relationship with the Grand Lodge of Cyprus that is harmonious and amicable. The relationship between the Grand Lodge of Cyprus and the United Grand Lodge of England is still unsettled. At issue is the definition of Masonic sovereignty on the island of Cyprus and what limitations may be applied. The Grand Lodge of Cyprus expresses a desire for the two Grand Lodges to "co exist and run in parallel", and a representative of the United Grand Lodge of England expressed a willingness to continue discussions to resolve any misunderstandings. The Grand Lodge of Cyprus is regular in every respect and has been recognized by a number of member Grand Lodges of this Conference. The only thing missing to completely satisfy the standards for recognition, is a formal agreement between the two Grand Lodges that they will share the jurisdiction, and this is being addressed.

MALTA'

The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta was consecrated in 2004 by the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the United Grand Lodge of England. Recently, three Lodges, namely, Logga Mikiel yassalli, Abercom Lodge, and Logga Fenici have withdrawn from the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta, and formed a new Grand Lodge named the Grand Lodge of Malta. This Grand Lodge was not regularly formed and does not have a treaty to share the jurisdiction with the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta, and therefore does not satisfy the standards for recognition.

MOLDOVA

The Commission reported last year the Grand Lodge of Moldova did not meet the standards for recognition because of concerns about the legitimacy of its origin. Data has subsequently been presented that modifies that opinion. The Grand Lodge of Moldova was consecrated by the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, which has not met the standards, even though they practice regular Masonry. The Grand Lodge of Moldova has severed relations with the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy and has now established fraternal relations with the Grand Orient of Italy. The Grand Lodge of Moldova is composed of Lodges that practice regular Masonry, and has established fraternal relations with many of the regular Grand Lodges in Europe. The Commission is of the opinion that since there is no way for this Grand Lodge to correct their origin, and since they are regular in all aspects of Masonic practice, they can now be considered to have met the standards for recognition.

MOZAMBIQUE

The Grande Loja de Mozambique was consecrated on July 11, 2009 by the Grande Loja Legal de Portugal, from three lodges previously chartered by the Legal Grand Lodge of Portugal. The Grand Lodge will work in the Portuguese language and will have exclusive jurisdiction over Masonry in that country. The Grand Lodge was formed based on the ancient landmarks and traditions of regular and recognized Grand Lodges. It is the opinion of the Commission that the Grand Lodge of Mozambique meets the standards for recognition. The Grand Master is Ussumane Aly Dauto, and the address of the Grand Lodge is: Rua do Infantario, n 308, Matola, Mozambique.

PARAGUAY

As was reported last year, the two Grand Masters of the Grand Symbolic Lodge of Paraguay met under the guidance of mediators appointed by the Commission, and arrived at an arrangement to resolve the differences that divided the Grand Lodge. Both Grand Masters signed the "California Agreement" and pledged to present the document to their respective members for ratification. This process progressed very slowly during the past year and finally stalled. Upon the arrival of both Grand Masters at this Conference,

they agreed to resume negotiations toward an agreement. This has been accomplished with the assistance of the three previous facilitators, and new terms, called the "Arlington Agreement" have been signed by both parties. Assurance has been given that this will be ratified by all involved. It is very encouraging that unification of Freemasonry in Paraguay has been restored.

SLOVAKIA

The Grand Lodge of Slovakia (Vel'kej Loze Slovenska) was constituted on March 21, 2009 by the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic, the United Grand Lodges of Germany, and the Grand Lodge of Austria. The Grand Lodge of Czechoslovakia was originally constituted in 1923 and went into exile during WW II. It was officially revived in 1990 with only 23 remaining Masons. After the political division of the country in 1993 into the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, the Grand Lodge of Czechoslovakia was renamed the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic with jurisdiction over lodges in both Republics. Full Masonic sovereignty was granted on March 21, 2009, when the Grand Lodge of Slovakia was constituted. from the District Grand Lodge of Slovakia, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Czech Republic. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Slovakia meets the standards for recognition. The Grand Master is Imrich Beres, and the address of the Grand Lodge is: V.L.S., FazuJova 1, 811 07 Bratislava, Slovakia GL.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. A significant amount of correspondence is being sent from the Grand Lodge National of Portugal. This Grand Lodge should not be confused with the Grand Lodge Legal of Portugal, which is the one that meets the standards for recognition.
2. Several Grand Lodges have received communications relative to the creation of a new United Grand Lodge of South Africa. The Grand Lodge of South Africa is the only Grand Lodge operating as such, even though England, Ireland, and Scotland continue to operate Districts and Lodges with the arrangement under which the Grand Lodge of South Africa was constituted in 1961. Any attempt by any other Grand Lodge to consecrate a lodge in South Africa will be strongly opposed, as it is not considered open territory.
3. The Grand Lodge of California has established a treaty with the Grand Lodge of Iran in Exile that they may co-exist in the jurisdiction of California, as well as in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.
4. It was reported that at a recent meeting of several European Grand Masters, the concept of establishing a Commission such as ours was discussed. This Commission would be concerned with issues of recognition and regularity among Grand Lodges in Europe. If such an organization becomes reality, it will greatly enhance the work of our Commission.
 - The Commission expresses its sincere gratitude to those brethren who facilitated the process of reaching agreements in the disputes presented in the discussions of the Grand Lodges of Baja California and of Paraguay. Their willingness to work for the best interests for Freemasonry and for these Grand Lodges is to be commended.
 - The United Grand Lodge of England has reported that the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Grand Lodge of Scotland have joined together to consecrate the Grand Lodge of Ghana on December 7 and 8, 2008. This Grand Lodge was formed from twenty Lodges operating under the Irish Provincial Grand Lodge in Ghana, and from twenty eight Lodges meeting under the Scottish District in Ghana.
 - It has been reported that two obediences still operate in Russia. The Grand Lodge of Russia, whose Grand Master is Andrey Bogdanov, has been determined to meet the standards of recognition. The other organization is composed of those members and lodges that broke away from the Grand Lodge of Russia, and after several confusing years, now call themselves the United Grand Lodge of Russia, and have affiliated themselves with the Grand Lodge of France. The Grand Lodge of Russia has 251 Master Masons in good standing at work in eighteen Lodges.

- In the nation of Cyprus, there are now operating lodges under three Masonic obediences: the United Grand Lodge of England; the Grand Lodge of Cyprus, which was constituted by the Grand Lodge Greece; and most recently, another Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Greece. In addition, the Grand Lodge of Greece has announced intentions to constitute additional Lodges there. If this occurs, the Grand Lodge of Cyprus has declared it will sever relations with the Grand Lodge of Greece, its mother Grand Lodge. *NOTE: After this report was distributed, a letter was received from the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Greece stating that the information given us that the Grand Lodge of Greece announced intentions to constitute another Lodge in Cyprus is untrue. It has never announced or had any intentions to constitute additional Lodges in the republic of Cyprus. The Grand Lodge of Greece maintains a relationship with the Grand Lodge of Cyprus that is harmonious and amicable.*
- A number of Lodges have been chartered in this country from foreign Grand Lodges not recognized by our Grand Lodges. The Regular Grand Lodge of California was chartered in June 2008 by the Regular Grand Lodge of Nevada, and according to their website, are linked to the Regular Grand Lodge of England. There are now a number of Co-Masonic and Feminine Grand Lodges operating in this country. We need to be very diligent in examining dues cards when accepting visitors to your Lodge, and in determining the legitimacy of a Lodge you may wish to visit.

2009 Commission Report

AZERBAIJAN

The National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan was chartered and constituted on December 8, 2008, by the Grand Lodges of the District of Columbia and the Grand Lodge of Russia in the City of Baku, Azerbaijan. This Grand Lodge was formed from a Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia in 2002, a Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Turkey in 2003, and a Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Russia in 2003. A fourth Lodge was chartered in 2007. The constitution and bylaws are patterned after those of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise and of the United Grand Lodge of England. It is the opinion of the Commission that the National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan meets the standards for recognition.

BAJA CALIFORNIA

It was reported last year that a serious split existed in the Grand Lodge of Baja California. Two sets of Grand Lodge officers were claiming to be the legitimate officials of this Grand Lodge, and it was clear that more work had to be done to resolve this problem. At this time, it appeared the situation had not materially changed. One group of Lodges using the name of Gran Logia de Estado Baja California has as its Grand Master, Hector Pablo Meixueiro Corral; and another group using the same name has as its Grand Master, Franco Magdaleno-Sato. At the request of the Commission, both Grand Masters agreed to come together with several brethren appointed to act as mediators at the close of the meeting. Brothers Thomas Jackson of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Jean Claude Tardivat of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF), and Alan Englefield of the United Grand Lodge of England agreed to serve in that role. We are pleased to report that within a matter of hours, an agreement on terms for unification had been reached and signed by the two Grand Masters. This agreement reached is patterned after the one established for Paraguay, and is subject to ratification by their respective Grand Lodges. We commend these brethren for their willingness to resolve their differences and work for Masonic unity in Baja California.

BULGARIA

Little progress has been made in unifying Freemasonry in Bulgaria, as it continues to function under two Grand Lodge structures, namely the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria (UGLB) and the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Bulgaria (GLAFAMB). Last year, the Commission again strongly encouraged the two Grand Lodges to actively meet and work toward the resolution of their differences. The services of several impartial mediators were offered to facilitate the process. These attempts have not been. The UGLB offered to relax the requirements of the "regularization procedure", but later rescinded the offer. Most members of the GLAFAMB are unwilling to be subjected to the requirements of the procedure as defined. Several options have been offered by the GLAFAMB, but none are seriously being considered. The UGLB states they believe the GLAFAMB is irregular and they therefore cannot communicate with them. After five years of unsuccessfully urging the two organizations to actively pursue avenues of unification, the Commission will not receive any additional presentations from either Grand Lodge until there is substantive evidence of progress in resolving their differences.

MOLDOVA

The Grand Lodge of Moldova submitted a request to the Commission for formal recognition of their Grand Lodge. The Commission does not and cannot grant formal recognition to any Grand Lodge; it only makes a determination as to whether a Grand Lodge meets the standards for recognition, as established by this Conference. In 2003, the Commission determined that the Grand Lodge of Moldova did not meet the standards for recognition because they were not constituted by a Grand Lodge that met the standards. The Regular Grand Lodge of Italy constituted the Grand Lodge of Moldova in 1999, and the Commission had previously determined that the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy did not have legitimacy of origin as defined by our standards. In addition, there is no evidence that the constituent Lodges from which formed the Grand Lodge of Moldova was formed had legitimate origins. Even though this Grand Lodge may now

practice regular Masonry, and is recognized by a number regular Grand Lodges in the world, the Commission has no authority to deviate from the standards established by this Conference. It is therefore the opinion of the Commission that the Grand Lodge of Moldova does not meet the standards for recognition.

PARAGUAY

It was reported last year that a split had developed in the Grand Lodge of Paraguay, in which two Grand Masters, Nemecio Lichi and Ignacio Mendosa claimed to be the legal authority for the Grand Lodge. Attempts by various parties during the year to resolve the problem had proved futile. At a meeting at this Conference, prior to the Commission meeting, representatives from a number of jurisdictions met with these Grand Masters and members of their delegations. Among those attending this meeting were Tom Jackson, Executive Secretary of the World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges; Jean Claude Tardivat of the GLNF; Alan Englefield of the United Grand Lodge of England; Diego Delora of the Grand Lodge of Spain, and Tullion Colacioppio of the Grand Orient of Brazil. At the conclusion of the meeting, an agreement titled, California Agreement on the Future of Paraguayan Freemasonry, was signed by those present. The document contains five points on which they were in full agreement, in order to bring unity to Freemasonry in Paraguay.

OTHER INFORMATION

- The Commission expresses its sincere gratitude to those brethren who facilitated the process of reaching agreements in the disputes presented in the discussions of the Grand Lodges of Baja California and of Paraguay. Their willingness to work for the best interests for Freemasonry and for these Grand Lodges is to be commended.
- The United Grand Lodge of England has reported that the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Grand Lodge of Scotland have joined together to consecrate the Grand Lodge of Ghana on December 7 and 8, 2008. This Grand Lodge was formed from twenty Lodges operating under the Irish Provincial Grand Lodge in Ghana, and from twenty eight Lodges meeting under the Scottish District in Ghana.
- It has been reported that two obediences still operate in Russia. The Grand Lodge of Russia, whose Grand Master is Andrey Bogdanov, has been determined to meet the standards of recognition. The other organization is composed of those members and lodges that broke away from the Grand Lodge of Russia, and after several confusing years, now call themselves the United Grand Lodge of Russia, and have affiliated themselves with the Grand Lodge of France. The Grand Lodge of Russia has 251 Master Masons in good standing at work in eighteen Lodges.
- In the nation of Cyprus, there are now operating lodges under three Masonic obediences: the United Grand Lodge of England; the Grand Lodge of Cyprus, which was constituted by the Grand Lodge Greece; and most recently, another Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Greece. In addition, the Grand Lodge of Greece has announced intentions to constitute additional Lodges there. If this occurs, the Grand Lodge of Cyprus has declared it will sever relations with the Grand Lodge of Greece, its mother Grand Lodge. *NOTE: After this report was distributed, a letter was received from the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Greece stating that the information given us that the Grand Lodge of Greece announced intentions to constitute another Lodge in Cyprus is untrue. It has never announced or had any intentions to constitute additional Lodges in the republic of Cyprus. The Grand Lodge of Greece maintains a relationship with the Grand Lodge of Cyprus that is harmonious and amicable.*
- A number of Lodges have been chartered in this country from foreign Grand Lodges not recognized by our Grand Lodges. The Regular Grand Lodge of California was chartered in June 2008 by the Regular Grand Lodge of Nevada, and according to their website, are linked to the Regular Grand Lodge of England. There are now a number of Co-Masonic and Feminine Grand Lodges operating in this country. We need to be very diligent in examining dues cards when accepting visitors to your Lodge, and in determining the legitimacy of a Lodge you may wish to visit.

2008 Commission Report

BAJA CALIFORNIA

A serious split exists in the Grand Lodge of Baja California. Two sets of Grand Lodge officers claim to be the legitimate officials of this Grand Lodge. The Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges and the Interamerican Masonic Confederation has selected Lino Chavez as the legitimate Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of California, after an extensive investigation has determined that Lopez Mendoza is the legitimately elected Grand Master of this Grand Lodge. The Commission applauds the efforts of the Grand Lodge of California in trying to affect a resolution in this situation. It is clear that additional work must be done to resolve this problem. The two sets of Officers must work toward a unification agreement for the good of Freemasonry in Baja California. Until that occurs, we would recommend restraint in establishing further fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge.

BULGARIA

Freemasonry continues to function in two Grand Lodges in Bulgaria, namely the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria , and the Grand Lodge of Bulgaria. The Grand Lodge of Bulgaria with Grand Master Alexandrov has asked the Commission to advise on the regularity of their Grand Lodge. We must state again that even though a Grand Lodge may practice regular Masonry, we only determine whether the Grand Lodge meets all the standards for recognition, as established by this Conference. The Commission has for the past several years strongly encouraged the two Grand Lodges to actively meet and work toward the resolution of their differences and unification of their Grand Lodges for the best interests of Bulgarian Masonry. These attempts have not been successful largely due to some unusual demands on the part of the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria. We now recommend that another joint meeting be scheduled within the next six months to work toward resolution of this problem. We further recommend that Bros. Jean-Claude Tardivat of the GLNF, Robert Heyat of the District of Columbia, and Thomas Jackson of Pennsylvania serve as independent observer/mediators to aid in this endeavor, as they have successfully done in a similar circumstance previously. If this attempt is unsuccessful, a final course of action may be to recommend suspension of recognition of Bulgarian Freemasonry until a resolution is achieved.

See [Supplemental Report](#)

YORK GRAND LODGE OF MEXICO

A schism has developed in the York Grand Lodge of Mexico. A group that was separated from the York Grand Lodge, now call themselves the Very Respectful Grand Lodge of the York Rite in Mexico, AF&AM, and practice Masonry in Spanish only. There are indications they have some ties to the unrecognized United Grand Lodge of America. The dissidents had previously been expelled by the York Grand Lodge of Mexico for various infractions. At this point, the York Grand Lodge of Mexico is still considered to be the recognized York Grand Lodge in Mexico.

MONTENEGRO

The Grand Lodge of Montenegro was legally consecrated on May 12, 2007 from three lodges that worked under the auspices of the Regular Grand Lodge Yugoslavia and was chartered by the United Grand Lodges of Germany. The ritual work of the consecration was performed by the United Grand Lodges of Germany, the Grand Lodge of Serbia, the Grand Orient of Italy, and the Grand Lodge of Austria. There are now four Lodges working under this obedience. This new Grand Lodge meets the standards for recognition. The Grand Master is Novak Jaukovic.

PARAGUAY

A split has developed in the Grand Lodge of Paraguay. A group of dissidents have now proclaimed themselves to be the Grand Lodge Symbolic of Paraguay. After a questionable investigation, the Interamerican Masonic Confederation has declared this group headed by Mendoza Unzain to be legitimate. This was an unusual act since the by-laws of the CMI prohibits the interference in the internal affairs of a Grand Lodge. This ruling is being contested by the existing Grand Lodge of Paraguay, but they have not allowed to see the report of the investigation, or to offer a response. Nemecio Lichi was legally elected to

be the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Paraguay, and the Commission is of the opinion that this Grand Lodge is still the only Grand Lodge in Paraguay that meets the standards for recognition.

PHILIPPINES

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines has provided additional clarification on the situation with Freemasonry in that country. Members in seven of the eighteen Lodges in the Cavite District formed Lodges with the same name, but different numbers, and formed what they call the Independent Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands, without a legitimate charter. All those members have been expelled from the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. As stated last year, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines is the only Grand Lodge in that country that meets the standards for recognition.

RUSSIA

The legitimate Grand Lodge of Russia continues to operate in the confusion of having a self-proclaimed group operate under the same name. This group, headed by Roman Gorodnitsky, has sent numerous letters to Grand Lodges around the world claiming legitimacy. It is still the opinion of the Commission that the Grand Lodge of Russia with Andrei Bogdanov as Grand Master is the only Grand Lodge in Russia that meets the standards for recognition. It has been learned that Grand Master Bogdanov has announced himself as a candidate for the Presidency of Russia. The Commission is grateful to Brothers Tardivat of the GLNF, Robert Heyat of the District of Columbia, and Thomas Jackson of Pennsylvania for their efforts in helping resolve the difficult situation that has existed in the Grand Lodge of Russia.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. The Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic has filed a protest with the United Grand Lodges of Germany for a claimed invasion of their territory. During January of this year, a Lodge in Passau, Germany, initiated three candidates from Slovakia. After the Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic lodged their protest, the United Grand Lodges of Germany stated they will initiate another class of candidates from Slovakia in February. The Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic is claiming Slovakia as their territory since they announced they planned to constitute the District Grand Lodge of Slovakia, which is scheduled for March 8, 2008. Since this District Grand Lodge has not yet been formed, and since Slovakia is an independent country, The United Grand Lodges of Germany believe it to be open territory at the present time. This is an issue that must be resolved between these two Grand Lodges, and it is hoped these they will come to an agreement on territorial jurisdiction as practiced by all regular Grand Lodges.
2. Lodges and Grand Lodges continue to spring up around the world from unrecognized sources. A number of Lodges have been chartered in this country from foreign Grand Lodges of this nature. A new supreme Council, whose origin is unknown, has also been established in America, called the Supreme Council of North America, with bodies located in Virginia, North Carolina, and Illinois. We need to be very diligent in examining dues cards when accepting visitors to your Lodge, and in determining the legitimacy of a Lodge you may wish to visit.

Supplemental Report (06/2008)

BULGARIA

A special called meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on May 8, 2008 to hear the report of the three mediators suggested by the Commission at the regular annual meeting in February. Bro. Thomas Jackson reported that the three mediators, consisting of himself, Jean-Claude Tardivat of the GLNF, and Robert Heyat of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, had met with the Grand Master, Petyo Penkov, and the Grand Secretary, Vasil Kolev, of the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria. In summary, they clarified and explained the information that was provided to the Commission in February by the Grand Lodge AF&AM in Bulgaria. The United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria (UGLB) is working toward unification of Freemasonry in Bulgaria, and has established a process for the "regularization" of those brethren and Lodges of the Grand Lodge AF&AM in Bulgaria who wish to return to the UGLB. This process is the same for those who are joining or rejoining the UGLB; however some special provisions are made for those who were initiated

prior to the split of the Grand Lodge in November, 2000. They are also reducing the time requirement for those who are already Master Masons. To date, over 400 brethren have completed the regularization process and are members in good standing in the UGLB.

The Commission members present then met at length with Grand Master Penkov and Grand Secretary Kolev and verified the report of the mediators. The Commission is satisfied that the UGLB is working in good faith and in a logical manner to again achieve unification of Freemasonry in Bulgaria, and reaffirms the previous findings that the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria is the only Grand Lodge in that jurisdiction that meets all the standards for recognition.

2007 Commission Report

BULGARIA

The status of Freemasonry in Bulgaria has not materially changed since the report last year. The United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria offered a plan to “regularize” those members of the Grand Lodge AF&AM in Bulgaria who wished to reunite with the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria. This offer was rejected. The Grand Lodge AF&AM in Bulgaria subsequently offered a plan to create an umbrella organization called the United Grand Lodges of Bulgaria, which would encompass both Grand Lodges. The United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria refused to consider such a plan, and has stated they do not intend to share the jurisdiction with another Grand Lodge. It does not appear that unification of Freemasonry in Bulgaria will occur in the foreseeable future. It is the opinion of the Commission that the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria is still the only Grand Lodge that meets all the standards for recognition, and is so considered by most regular Grand Lodges worldwide.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Grand Lodge of Bosnia and Herzegovina was consecrated by the Grand Lodge of Austria, with the support of the Regular Grand Lodge of Slovenia, on April 16, 2005. This Grand Lodge has legitimacy of origin, exclusive territorial jurisdiction, and works in regular Masonry. The Commission is of the opinion that this Grand Lodge meets the standards for recognition.

CYPRUS

The Grand Lodge of Cyprus was formed from six Lodges working under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Greece. On January 15, 2006, the Grand Lodge of Greece formally set the Grand Lodge of Cyprus to work and installed its officers. Formal consecration of the Grand Lodge was held on October 8, 2006 by the Grand Lodge of Greece, the Grand Lodge of Austria, and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The United Grand Lodge of England has been present in Cyprus since 1888, and has a District Grand Lodge there with over 1,000 members in six major towns. The Grand Lodge of Cyprus is claiming exclusive jurisdiction over Cyprus, which the UGLE does not accept. The Grand Lodge of Cyprus was legally formed, works in regular Masonry, and generally meets the standards for recognition. An agreement should be reached within the Grand Lodge of Cyprus that recognizes the rights of those Lodges chartered by the United Grand Lodge of England to co-exist within the jurisdiction of Cyprus.

PHILIPPINES

On July 8, 2006, nine Lodges in two Masonic districts of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines declared their independence from the Grand Lodge and announced the formation of a new Grand Lodge, subsequently called the Independent Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines Islands. The Lodges turned in their charters and were issued new ones by the new Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines summarily declared these Lodges, its members, and anyone else who joined them to be clandestine.

Even though the reasons for this separation may be valid and the Lodges are regular in origin and practice, the new Grand Lodge was not legally constituted, and they do not have exclusive territorial jurisdiction in the Philippines. It is therefore the opinion of the Commission that this Grand Lodge does not meet the standards for recognition.

RUSSIA

Unrest still prevails in the Grand Lodge of Russia. The current controversy centers around the legitimacy of an Extraordinary Assembly of the Grand Lodge of Russia held on May 29-30, 2006. At that assembly, two opposing factions held separate meetings. One group of delegates voted to reduce the term of Grand Master Vladimir Djanguiryan, and Roman Gorodnitskiy was elected the new Grand Master. The other group of delegates reaffirmed the actions of Grand Master Djanguiryan, and Gorodnitskiy and Grand Secretary Nikitin were expelled. The 13th Annual Assembly of the GLOR was held on June 17, 2006, at which time Grand Master Djanguiryan was reconfirmed by the delegates present. However, since June of 2006, numerous contradictory communications have been received from Djanguiryan and Gorodnitskiy, both claiming to be the legitimate Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Russia. This has created much confusion in the Masonic community throughout the world. A plan is being prepared to hold a joint meeting of these two factions in May, with two independent observers to review the proceedings. It is highly recommended that the issue of who are the legitimate officers of this Grand Lodge be resolved at this meeting, by members of this Grand Lodge, before a schism develops that would further damage Russian Freemasonry. The Grand Lodge of Russia is still considered to meet the standards for recognition.

SERBIA

On June 6, 2006, the Annual Assembly of the Regular Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia decided to officially change its name to the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia, effective January 1, 2007. Previous to that, in May of 2006, eleven Lodges called a special General Assembly meeting of the Regular Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia and emerged calling themselves the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia. They later changed the name to the Grand United Lodge of Serbia, and now the United Grand Lodges of Serbia. This organization claims to be the legal descendant of the Regular Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia, as does the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia; however it is not accepted as such by regular Grand Lodges in Europe. The Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia, headed by Grand Master Petar Kostic, is still considered to be the legitimate extension of regular Masonry in that country.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. On May 28, 2006, three lodges in Montenegro working under the Regular Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia, asked for and received permission to establish a sovereign and independent Grand Lodge to be called the Grand Lodge of Montenegro. They adopted the constitution of the Regular Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia, and registered with the Ministry of Justice in Montenegro. Consecration of the Grand Lodge of Montenegro is scheduled to be held on May 12, 2007 by the United Grand Lodges of Germany, the Grand Oriente d'Italia, and the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia.

2. An organization calling itself the Grand Lodge of All England is presenting itself as a legitimate Masonic Grand Lodge in England. It claims to trace its roots to a Lodge at York, founded in 1705, which later styled itself a Grand Lodge in 1725, first named the Old Grand Lodge at York, and later the Grand Lodge of All England at York. This Grand Lodge went dormant in 1740, was revived in 1761, and went dormant again in 1791, never to meet again. On December 23, 2005, an assembly of Masons met and "reclaimed English Freemasonry on behalf of its rightful custodians." The Grand Lodge of All England emerged and is said to be a revival of the Grand Lodge that went dormant in 1791.

It must again be stated that the Commission does not determine the regularity of a Grand Lodge; it only evaluates the facts available to determine if the entity meets the standards for recognition, as adopted by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, and reports those findings to the member Grand Lodges of this Conference for their use.

The Commission cannot validate the claimed legitimacy of origin of the Grand Lodge of All England, since no documentation has been presented that this Grand Lodge was reinstated or reconstituted in 2005 by a recognized Masonic authority. In addition, it cannot claim exclusive territorial jurisdiction since a pact or treaty does not exist to share the jurisdiction with the United Grand Lodge of England. It is

therefore the opinion of the Commission that the Grand Lodge of All England does not meet the standards for recognition.

3. An attempt to start a new Hispanic speaking Grand Lodge in North Carolina has been reported. Apparently several such Lodges have been formed there, and a request was made to the York Grand Lodge in Mexico to grant them a charter to form a Grand Lodge. The request was denied.

4. It has been reported that the Supreme Council of Brazil has chartered a new national Grand Lodge in Brazil. This Grand Lodge would invade the sovereign jurisdiction of several State Grand Lodges, and is causing some concern there. This report is being investigated, and the findings will be reported when available.

2006 Commission Report

ANDORRA

The Grand Master of Andorra has given approval to the founding of an English speaking lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Andorra. This lodge is being promoted by a Grand Lodge officer of English nationality with the intention that this lodge will have international appeal and will be able to offer work in an English speaking Masonic lodge in the Pyrenean region. The consecration is planned for the week ending June 3, 2006.

BULGARIA

The Grand Lodge AF&AM of Bulgaria has again petitioned the Commission to support their claim of being the legitimate Grand Lodge in that country, as opposed to the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria. The controversy goes back to a contested election in November 2000, and the subsequent breakaway of several lodges to form a new Grand Lodge. It appears that both Grand Lodges use the same ritual and generally practice the same Masonry, but attempts to unify the two groups have been unsuccessful. Conflicting information from both groups has made it difficult to accurately assess the cause for this problem, but attempts to achieve unification are ongoing, and successful results are a possibility in the foreseeable future. It has previously been determined that the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria meets the standards for recognition, and this Grand Lodge has been so recognized by most regular Grand Lodges worldwide. Until such time these two Grand Lodges unite, or agree by mutual consent to share the jurisdiction of Bulgaria, this situation will remain unstable.

MACEDONIA

The Grand Lodge of Macedonia was consecrated on September 30, 2005 in Skopje by the United Grand Lodge of England. The Grand Lodge was formed from Skopje Lodge No. 9721, Unity Lodge No. 9749, and White Plains Lodge No. 9765, which were consecrated by the United Grand Lodge of England in 2000, 2001, and 2002 respectively. This Grand Lodge is regular in its work, and meets the standards for recognition. The Grand Master is MW Bro. Vladimir Sukarov, and the Grand Secretary is VW Bro. Nikola Polenak. The address of the Grand Lodge is, 1000 Skopje, P.O. 544, Republic of Macedonia.

MAURITIUS

The Grand Lodge of Mauritius was consecrated on March 12, 2005 by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise, and is comprised of eight lodges previously constituted by the GLNF between 1992 and 2004, one Scottish lodge dating back to 1864, one English lodge dating back to 1877, and one French lodge dating back to 1778. The consecration date was the 37th anniversary of independence for Mauritius. The Grand Master is M.W. Bro. Lindsay Descombes. The Commission is of the opinion that this Grand Lodge meets the standards for recognition.

MOROCCO

There continues to be two Grand Lodges in Morocco: the Grande Loge Du Rouaume du Maroc (GLRM), headed by Bouchaib El Kouhi; and the Grande Loge Reguliere du Rouaume du Maroc (GLRRM), headed by Saad Lahrichi. There is an attempt by the founding Grand Master, Emile H. Ouaknine to unify the two bodies, but until that is accomplished, the Grande Loge Reguliere du Royaume du Maroc (GLRRM) is still considered to be the recognized Grand Lodge in that country.

PRINCE HALL CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS

A letter has been received from the Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters requesting:

1. That all Prince Hall Grand Lodges be declared regular by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, and
2. That the policy of Exclusive Territorial Jurisdiction be clearly defined so that universal Masonry can prevail while keeping the Brotherhood Man through the Fatherhood of God; a viable cause for Freemasonry as a whole.

It has become generally accepted that Prince Hall Freemasonry is regular in form and practice. The Prince Hall Grand Lodges derive their origin from African Lodge No. 459, which received a charter from the United Grand Lodge of England in 1784. There are approximately 40 member Grand Lodges of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America that have established a fraternal relationship with one or more Prince Hall Grand Lodges. Therefore, the question of regularity does not seem to be an issue any longer. A current list and addresses of the member Grand Lodges of the Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters is being requested, and will be posted on the Commission website as soon as it is received.

The issue of Exclusive Territorial Jurisdiction is one of the standards for recognition that has been strictly observed by this Conference. It is held that only one legitimate Grand Lodge will be recognized in a particular state or country, unless by treaty or mutual consent two Grand Lodges agree to share the same jurisdiction. This is the mechanism by which our Grand Lodges have established a fraternal relationship with Prince Hall Grand Lodges. The terms of such an agreement are usually negotiated and ratified by the two Grand Lodges in question and no change in that process is recommended.

We continue to be of the opinion that establishment of fraternal relationships with Prince Hall Grand Lodges remains the prerogative of each individual Grand Lodge.

ROMANIA

The National Grand Lodge of Romania reported that the Grand Orient of France has invaded their jurisdiction and formed the Grand Orient of Romania, which is composed of six lodges previously formed by the Grand Orient of France. These are not recognized Masonic bodies. It should be noted that the National Grand Lodge of Romania is the only independent and sovereign Grand Lodge of regular Freemasonry in Romania. They have some 5,500 members and work in strict observance of the ancient Landmarks and Old Charges of the Craft in 170 active lodges. The Grand Master is Eugen-Ovidiu Chirovici.

UKRAINE

The Grand Lodge of Ukraine was consecrated on September 24, 2005 by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise and the Grand Lodge of Austria. This Grand Lodge was constituted from four Lodges previously constituted by the GLNF, and one Lodge constituted from the Grand Lodge of Austria. The first lodge constituted by the GLNF was named after a lodge of the same name created two centuries ago, and whose officers are working with the regalia worn by Simon Pethura, President of the Republic of Ukraine and Grand Master of the Ukraine until 1922. The Grand Master of the new Grand Lodge is M.W. Bro. Oleg Kusan. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Ukraine meets the standards for recognition.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. There is information that Serbia and Montenegro will be established as two separate governments in the near future. If that occurs, the Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia may be divided into two separate

Grand Lodges, namely the Grand Lodge of Serbia and the Grand Lodge of Montenegro. Information will be posted on the Commission website as it develops.
www.RECOGNITIONCOMMISSION.ORG

2. Grand Lodges that do not meet the standards for recognition are being formed and promoted at an alarming rate. There are several of which you should be aware. The Regular Grand Lodge of England is creating lodges in many European and South American countries. There have been reports that plans are to create lodges in America as well. There is a movement called the United Grand Lodge of America of Accepted Free Masons that is also trying gain a foothold on this country. Another group calling itself the Grand Lodge of All England is attempting to create lodges in England. The Grand Orient of France has also created several lodges in this country. With the renewed interest in Masonry brought on by recent books and movies, it appears numerous clandestine groups are trying to capitalize on this situation.
3. In order to facilitate the requests of foreign delegations to meet with the Commission at our annual meeting, it will necessary to have all such requests submitted to the Commission by January 1st of each year. This will give us time to make arrangements with those interested parties. Time will scheduled on Sunday, prior to the Monday meeting of the Commission to accommodate those requests.

2005 Commission Report

Update: August 26, 2005

Many Grand Lodges have received an invitation from the Confederation of the Grand Lodges of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite to attend the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the United National Grand Lodge of Romania and the Ecumenical Masonic Symposium of the Future of Freemasonry in Eastern European Countries. Please be advised this Confederation is considered to be irregular, and the United National Grand Lodge of Romania is a Grand Lodge that has not met the standards for recognition, as defined by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. The only Grand Lodge in Romania that has met the standards for recognition is THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE OF ROMANIA, whose current Grand Master is M.W. Bro. Eugen-Ovidiu Chirovici.

Armenia

The Grand Lodge of Armenia has purchased land in the capital city of Yerevan, and intends to construct a Grand Lodge Temple on the property. M.W. Bro. Christopher D. Sahakian has been re-elected for a term ending in July 2008. The Third Annual Communication is scheduled for July 5-7, 2005 in Yerevan. The Grand Lodge is stable and is experiencing growth and acceptance in the Armenian society. The address of the Grand Lodge is: P.O. Box 65, Yerevan 375010 Armenia. For correspondence, the Grand Secretary is Paul Najarian, P.O. Box 23378, Washington, D.C. 20026-3378.

Bulgaria

Freemasonry in Bulgaria is still divided into two major Grand Lodges; however progress is being made in the process of regularizing a number of the Masons that left the original Grand Lodge. The regular Grand Lodge is now known as the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria, and is the only Grand Lodge in Bulgaria that is considered to meet the standards for recognition. On November 27, 2004, Bro. Petyo Penkov was elected and installed Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria, succeeding M.W. Bro. Borislav Sarandev. The Grand Secretary is R. W. Bro. Nikola Belopitov. The new address of the Grand Lodge is: 3, Kap. Dimitar Spisarevski Blvd. 7th Floor, 1592 Sofia, Bulgaria.

Ecuador

There are still two Grand Lodges in Ecuador that claim to be the legitimate authority for Masonry in that country. One Grand Lodge is designated as the Grand Loggia of the Elders, Free and Accepted Masons of Ecuador, and was not the recognized organization. The Gran Logia de los AA. LL. y AA. MM. del Ecuador (Grand Lodge of Ecuador) was the recognized organization. Because of irregularities that occurred during the past two years, the Interamerican Masonic Confederation (CMI) withdrew recognition of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador. Last October, the Grand Masters of the two Grand Lodges signed a compromise that they will regularize the situation by April 15, 2005. Until that occurs, the Commission is of the opinion that recognition of any Masonic organization in Ecuador should be delayed. If the compromise is achieved, the issue of regularity will then be addressed by the Commission.

Latvia

The Grand Lodge of Latvia was constituted on March 8, 2003, by the United Grand Lodges of Germany. Three regular lodges previously established by the United Grand Lodges of Germany were the foundation for this new Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge of Latvia adheres to the established principles, tenets, and customs of the Craft, and uses the ritual of the Grand Lodge of A.F.& A.M. of Germany. It is the opinion of the Commission that the Grand Lodge of Latvia practices regular Masonry, and meets the standards for recognition. The address of the Grand Lodge is: Brivibas iela 106-6., Riga, Latvia.

Lithuania

The Grand Lodge of Lithuania A.F.& A.M. was established on April 12, 2002, by the United Grand Lodges of Germany. Three lodges chartered by Hamburg Brukenbauer Lodge in Germany were the founding lodges for the new Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge of Lithuania A.F.& A.M. promotes the tenets and customs of the Craft, and practices regular Masonry. It is the opinion of the Commission that this Grand Lodge meets the standards for recognition. The address of the Grand Lodge is: P.O. Box 1039, LT-2000 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Malta

The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta was constituted on November 18, 2004 by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The new Grand Lodge consists of four craft lodges formerly under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and one formerly under the United Grand Lodge of England. The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta states that the principles of the Ancient Landmarks, usages and customs are strictly observed. The Commission is of the opinion that this Grand Lodge complies with all the required standards for recognition. The Grand Master is M.W. Bro. Joseph Cordina, and the Grand Secretary is R.W. Bro. Anthony A. Pisani. The address of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Malta is: P.O. Box 29, St. Julian's, Malta.

Valle de Mexico

Contention still exists between the Grand Lodge Valle De Mexico and several state Mexican Grand Lodges. There are allegations that Valle de Mexico has continued to invade other Grand Lodge jurisdictions, and there are assertions by Valle de Mexico that four state Grand Lodges have invaded their sovereign jurisdiction. It appears the controversial issue here is what exactly constitutes the sovereign jurisdiction of Valle de Mexico. There still seems to be unresolved differences between Valle de Mexico and Baja California. The Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico has not been accepted back into the Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges. These continuing problems contribute to the confusion surrounding Mexican Masonry, but as stated last year, these matters must be resolved by the Mexican Grand Lodges themselves. The situation appears to be very fluid, and caution is recommended when establishing fraternal relationships with these Grand Lodges.

Morocco

The Grande Loge Du Royaume Du Maroc (Grand Lodge of the Kingdom of Morocco, or GLRM) was consecrated by the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) on June 15, 2000, with M.W. Bro. Emile Ouaknine as Grand Master. In 2002, a schism developed in the Grand Lodge, and Bouchaib El Kouhi proclaimed himself as the new Grand Master of the GLRM. Emile Ouaknine continued in his role as Grand Master of the GLRM. This resulted in two Grand Lodges using the same name. El Kouhi subsequently appointed Pierre Mouselli to represent him to the Grand Lodges in North America. On February 25, 2004, R.W. Bro. Saad Lahrichi was elected and installed Grand Master to succeed M.W. Bro. Ouaknine. The name El Andalous was added to the title of the Grand Lodge, to become known as, Grande Loge El Andalous Royaume do Maroc. This has now been changed to avoid further confusion, and is now known as Grande Loge Reguliere du Royaume du Maroc (G.L.R.R.M.) This name has been registered in the records at the royal Archives in Rabat. M.W. Bro. Lahrichi continues as the Grand Master of the G.L.R.R.M., which is considered to be the recognized Grand Lodge in Morocco. The address is: 11 rue Dayet Erroumi, Apt. 8, Rabat Agdal, Morocco.

Romania

An organization has emerged in Romania calling itself the Confederation of Grand Lodges of Romania. This group is composed of the United National Grand Lodge of Romania, headed by Petru Stetiu; and the Grand Lodge of Romania, headed by Cornel Visoianu. A third Grand Lodge is expected to join soon. None of these Masonic organizations have been determined to meet the standards for recognition, and this is considered to be an irregular organization. The National Grand Lodge of Romania, with M.W. Bro. Eugen-Ovidiu Chirovic as the Grand Master, is the only Grand Lodge in Romania that is considered to meet the

standards for recognition. The Grand Secretary is R.W. Bro. Dan Tanasie, and the address of the Grand Lodge is: Sala Palaatului – 28 ion Campineanu Str., Et. 2, Sect 1, 010039 Bucharest, Romania.

Russia

In April 2001, a group broke away from the Grand Lodge of Russia, and formed an organization called the Regular Grand Lodge of Russia. This group, headed by Vladimar Lapuchin, has been expelled from the Grand Lodge of Russia, and is not recognized by any regular Grand Lodge in the world. The Grand Lodge of Russia is considered to meet the standards for recognition and is the only regular Grand Lodge in Russia. The Grand Master is M.W. Bro. Vladimar Dzhangiryan, and the address of the Grand Lodge is: Box 2053, 101000, Moscow, Russia.

Miscellaneous Information

1. A package was received from the Grand Lodge of Three Stars in Beirut, Lebanon, requesting recognition. This Grand Lodge did not provide proof of complying with the standards for recognition. The documentation did show a relationship with a number of Masonic organizations, all of which are considered to be irregular. No further consideration was given this request.
2. The number of irregular Masonic styled organizations seems to be growing, and becoming more visible. Many of our Grand Lodges are receiving communications from these seemingly legitimate groups. Care must be exercised when determining whether to communicate with them or not. The List of Lodges, published by Pantograph Printing, is an excellent source of identifying regular Lodges and Grand Lodges. The annual reports of this Commission present the results of investigating the regularity of various Grand Lodges. The Commission is a service to our Grand Lodges, and may be consulted on questions of regularity and recognition. The Commission maintains a website where the latest report and other pertinent information is posted. The address of the website is: recognitioncommission.org.
3. The Grand Lodge Nationale Francaise announced plans to consecrate a Grand Lodge of Mauritius on March 10-12, 2005, composed of seven previously consecrated lodges by the GLNF.
4. The Grand Lodge Nationale Francaise announced plans to consecrate a Grand Lodge of Ukraine on May 7, 2005, composed of four District lodges of the GLNF and one lodge under the Grand Lodge of Austria.
5. The United Grand of England announced its intention to consecrate a new Grand Lodge of Macedonia on October 1, 2005. This Grand Lodge will be composed of lodges previously chartered by the UGLE.
6. The United Grand Lodge of England informed the Commission of a breakaway group from the UGLE that calls itself the Regular Grand Lodge of England. This group is irregular and has no legitimate standing in English Masonry.
7. In order to better accommodate delegations wishing to present information to the Commission, a time will be set aside on Sunday afternoon at the next Conference of Grand Masters of North America to receive those delegations. This will permit the Commission to evaluate the data presented prior to the Commission meeting on Monday morning.

2004 Commission Report

Bulgaria

Some confusion still exists within the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Bulgaria. The Grand Lodge practices Regular Masonry, and meets the standards of Recognition; however two sets of Brethren claim to be the legitimate Officers of this Grand Lodge. The latest information is that a large majority of the members have agreed to come together and recognition Bro. Boris Saredev as the Grand Master. To date, the other Grand Master, Bro. Roumen Raltchev, has not accepted this and continues to send correspondence to our Grand Lodges, this perpetuating the confusion.

To the best of our knowledge, a majority of the Regular Grand Lodges in Europe consider M·W· Bro Saredev the legitimate Grand Master. The Grand Secretary is: Nikola Belopitov, and the address of the Grand Lodge is

11 Karegi Street
1142 Sofia
Bulgaria

It is sincerely hoped that all members of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Bulgaria will make a determined effort this year to resolve their differences and end this confusion.

Estonia

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Estonia submitted documentation for the Commission to consider concerning its Regularity. This Grand Lodge was consecrated on May 18, 1999, by the Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Finland, and consisted of four warranted Lodges formerly on the register of the [Grand Lodge of Finland](#). The Grand Lodge of Estonia now has six subordinate Lodges and Research Lodge on its register. The Grand Lodge adopted the "Basic Principles for Grand Lodge Recognition" accepted by the [United Grand Lodge of England](#), and adopted the Ritual Book and Constitution of the [Grand Lodge of Finland](#). The Grand Master is Arbe Kaasik and the Grand Secretary is Jaak Rataspepp. The address of the Grand Lodge is:

Box 3992
10509 Tallin
Estonia

The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Estonia meets the standards for Regularity and Recognition.

Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges

An extensive study was undertaken this year to understand the situation and relationships with the Mexican Grand Lodges. One source estimated there are or were some 130 Grand Lodges in Mexico. Of these, there appear to be only 30 state Grand Lodges and the York Grand Lodge that are considered to be practicing Regular Masonry and observing accepted and expected relationships among each other and with foreign Grand Lodges. Those state Grand Lodges are members of the "Confederacion de Grandes Logias Regulares de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos", and include the following:

- Estado de Aguascalientes
- Estado de Baja California
- Estado de Baja California Sur

- Estado de Campeche
- Estado de Chiapas
- Estado de Colima
- Estado de Coahuila
- Estado de Durango
- Estado de Guanajuato
- Estado de Guerrero
- Estado de Hidalgo
- Estado de Jalisco
- Estado de Mexico
- Estado de Michoacan
- Estado de Morales
- Estado de Nayarit
- Estado de Nuevo Leon
- Estado de Oaxaca
- Estado de Puebla
- Estado de Queretaro
- Estado de Quintana Roo
- Estado de San Luis Potosi
- Estado de Sinaloa
- Estado de Sonora
- Estado de Tabasco
- Estado de Tamaulipas
- Estado de Veracruz
- Estado de Yucatan
- Estado de Zacatecas

In November 2002, the Confederation adopted a protocol for membership, which is a set of eight fundamental standards and requirements that a Grand Lodge must meet to be a member of the organization. The current members all meet those standards, which includes the [Standards](#) adopted by this Conference of Grand Masters for Recognition. Detailed information about each of these Grand Lodges is included in an [Appendix](#) of this report.

Valle De Mexico

The Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico has been the center of much controversy in North American Masonry. Most notably, this Grand Lodge has been accused of establishing lodges in the Mexican state of Baja California and in the state of Texas. Conversely, the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico maintains that some of the state Grand Lodges in Mexico were chartered in territories where Valle de Mexico had established Lodges, and it was done without their permission. As a result of these problems, the member Grand Lodges of the Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges and the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico have terminated Masonic Relations with each other. Recently, the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico issued a decree withdrawing the charter of the Grand Lodge Baja California, issued in 1933, and is proceeding to establish a District Grand Lodge there. Valle de Mexico also withdrew Recognition from the Grand Lodge of California because of its Recognition of the Grand Lodge Baja California. Although the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico shows evidence of being Regular in its basic practice of Masonry, it appears from the recent data presented to this Commission that they have apparently violated the [Standards of Recognition](#) concerning exclusive territorial jurisdiction except by mutual consent. It is obvious that contentions exist within the family of Mexican Masonry; however it is not the intention, nor does this Commission have the authority to interfere in these problems. Such matters can and must be resolved by Mexican Masons themselves. There are indications that this will occur.

San Marino

The "Serenissima Gran Loggia di San Marino" was constituted on March 13, 2003 and consecrated on April 6, 2003, in San Marino, by the [Grand Oriente d'Italia](#) and the [Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia](#). It consists of three warranted Lodges formerly on the register of the Grand Oriente d'Italia. The Grand Lodge adopted the Ritual and the Book of Constitutions of its parent Grand Lodge, as well as the "Basic Principles for Grand Lodge Recognition". The Grand Master is M.:W.: Bro. Federico Micheloni, and the Grand Secretary is Manuel Micheloni. The address of the Grand Lodge is:

Strada Cangiola
21-47890
San Marino

The Commission is of the opinion that this Grand Lodge meets the [Standards of Recognition](#).

Miscellaneous Information

1. A communication was recently received from the Secretary of the Interamerican Masonic Conference (CMI) that they have suspended Recognition of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador due to anti-masonic behavior of its Grand Master. At the last meeting of CMI, two men asked to be accepted as the new representative of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador. One was the previous Grand Master and the other a new one claiming to be Regularly elected as Grand Master. The CMI gave them time to resolve the situation, and since that wasn't done, Recognition of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador is suspended until an agreement is reached.

2. The Grand Lodge of Latvia was constituted in Riga, Latvia on March 8, 2003, by the United Grand Lodge of Germany. The address of this Grand lodge is: J. Alunana iela 6-8b, LV-Riga 1010, Latvia. No requests have been received from this Grand Lodge.

3. The National Grand Lodge of Romania held elections in October 2003, and M.:W.: Bro. Eugen Ovidiu Chirovici was elected Grand Master, replacing Bro. Gheorghe Comanescu. The new Grand Master insists that peace and harmony will now reign without the previous problems.

4. The Grand Lodge of Russia continues to grow, with 21 Lodges now at work. M.:W.: Dmitry Denisov is the Grand Master, and Bro. Vladimir Nikitin is the Grand Secretary. Members of the breakaway group calling themselves the Regular Grand Lodge of Russia continue to make allegations of questionable practices of the GLOR; however all European Regular Grand Lodges Recognize the Grand Lodge of Russia as being the Regular Grand Lodge.

5. A group of Masons in Sao Paulo, Brazil have formed a new Grand Lodge called Grande Loja do Brasil GLOB. This Grand Lodge is considered a Clandestine Grand Lodge, and is in no way connected with the Regular Grand Loja Maconica do Estado Sao Paulo.

6. It should be noted that the Grand Lodge of Congo is nor part of the country of the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly known as the Belgian Congo. The Grand Lodge of Congo is located in Congo, whose capital is Brazzeville.

7. The Commission has determined that the creation of a website would be beneficial to the member Grand Lodges of this Conference, as well as Grand Lodges throughout the world who use our services. This will allow the Commission to communicate information concerning regularity and recognition during the year in a timely manner. The cost to establish the domain name and maintain the site will be minimal and within our budget. The Commission looks forward to this opportunity to more efficiently serve our Grand Lodges. The website is www.recognitioncommission.org.

8. My Brethren, I want to read to you some excerpts from an [article](#) that is being posted on the website hosted by the [Grand Lodge of Texas](#), titled [What Every Mason Should Know About Regular Masonry](#). Over the past decade, there have been increasing attempts by members of irregular Masonic bodies to contact Regular Freemasons and have informal communications with us. Many of these irregular organizations originated in Europe, and have spread rapidly to the East coast of the U.S. and Canada. This is due in large part to the increased availability of information about Freemasonry, and the use of internet bulletin boards and list servers. At the same time, some regular Masons in this country consider it fashionable or cosmopolitan to fraternize with these irregular Masons on the internet, and to invite them to informal Masonic social where ladies and non-Masons are invited, and where traditional Masonic customs are often abused. On occasion, they have been invited to attend meetings of appendant or a affiliated bodies and research organizations, and have even been admitted to membership in some of them. These practices can be very embarrassing and damaging to Regular Masonry, particularly when unsuspecting eligible candidates join one of these bodies without being aware they are an irregular organization. When they find they are not welcome in their hometown Lodge, vaying degrees of animosity against our fraternity will likely result from those who might have otherwise become Regular Masons and members of our Lodges. Our fraternity is being stolen by these irregular Masons. The day may not be too distant when these organizations will want to level cornerstones and gain the same stature and recognition as our own Grand Lodges. We should not, under any circumstances, grant them acknowledgement of legitimacy. To take the position that they are merely a different type of Freemasonry is not only misguided, it is factually wrong. When encountering these individuals, either in person, or on the internet, we should remember our obligation that is a violation to have communication with them.