



GRAN MAESTRO

Gran Logia de Cuba

DE A.L. Y A.M.

Constituyente de la Confederación Masónica Interamericana

Havana, Cuba

25 March 2014

MESSAGE Nº 8

Respectfully addressed to our Brethren as follows:

THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF GRAND REGULAR LODGES
NORTH AMERICA GRAND MASTERS CONFERENCE
THE INTERAMERICAN MASONIC CONFEDERATION (C.M.I.)
NORTH AMERICA GRAND LODGES
GRAND LODGES OF OUR FRIENDSHIP
ALL LODGES AND FREEMASONS OF GRAND LODGE OF CUBAN JURISDICTION

KNOW BY ALL THESE PRESENT:

That the Grand Lodge of Cuba of A.F. & A.M. was recently apprised of through publication in the Regular Freemasons Forum, the Circular Letter published by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Freemasons of Florida, R.W. Bro. Richard E. Lynn, P.G.M., informing to all Lodges of this Jurisdiction the Withdrawal of Fraternal Recognition to our Grand Lodge of Cuba, dated on March 12, 2014, and with retroactive effects from March 1st 2014.

This document refers to a Resolution of the M.W. Grand Master from Florida, I.H. Danny R. Griffith, based on the recommendation of the M.R. Hno. J. Dick Martínez, P.G.M. and President of the Sub Committee of Jurisprudence of External Relationships of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

Informed of these details and trusting the constructive attitude of the M.R. Grand Master Danny R. Griffith, we consider this Resolution to be a victory of sorts for those Brothers who for some unknown reason are against the normalization of fraternal relations with the numerous Cuban Freemasons who have emigrated and been accepted into the Grand Lodge of Florida.

The Permanent Commission of International Relationships, the Special Commission -designated by Ordinance 517 of 2013 to preside over these topics- and the High Camera gathered last Sunday, March 23rd 2014, in Annual Session, where they sought advice to publish an explanatory document that serves as a basis of rationale and true and correct information to be disseminated and contained in the Circular Letter of the Grand Lodge of Florida Grand Secretary.

It is important to note that we do not, in the regular course of Lodge business, receive direct communications and as such did not know until now of this Resolution from the Grand Master of Florida. Something that we feel is out of the norm of known and accepted practices within our beloved Brotherhood among and between Grand Masonic Powers, but rather we came to find out about this communication after it became public information and distributed in digital formats.

We feel it is also of note that since 2010, all Lodges have been apprised of this most upsetting situation and the lack of "direct" communication between ourselves and other Lodges.

We feel that the October 13, 2013 letter, directed to the Grand Master of Florida, M.W. Bro. Danny R. Griffith, fully explained the steps that we were seeking to be taken and those that we were hoping were to be approved, always seeking and praying for possibility of establishing a dialogue with the Grand Lodge of Florida so that the solutions were always mutually satisfactory and beneficial to all parties.



Gran Logia de Cuba

DE A.L. Y A.M.

Constituyente de la Confederación Masónica Interamericana

GRAN MAESTRO

I - Respectfully and with the utmost urgency we wish to clarify -point by point- the information as captioned with regards to the Fraternal Recognition to the Grand Lodge of Cuba by the Grand Lodge of Florida, contained and captioned under the caption "WHEREAS" within the Circular Letter:

"The Grand Lodge of Cuba is actively seeking favorable opinion from the Grand Jurisdictions of the world by forwarding untruths as to The Grand Lodge of Florida entering into discussions of recognizing a clandestine Lodge of exiles Cubans in Florida under the auspices of The Grand Lodge of Cuba..."

As we have already pointed out previously, specifically on or about October 13th 2013, we remitted a letter (by Express Mail/Priority Mail Express 1-Day Service evidenced by tracking number EM536951823US and EM536951810US, with delivery date Sat 10/19/13 at 03:00 pm and 12:00 pm respectively) to the private addresses of the M.W. Grand Master Danny R. Griffith and W. Bro. Alvaro Lourido, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Cuba the Grand Lodge of Florida.

This letter text (written in English language) refers:

"That the Grand Lodge of Cuba assumes the historical responsibility that corresponds with the creation of the before named Masonic formation, which was created as alternative to the real possibility that the Masonry in Cuba was prohibited by the Government and, when not becoming effective this circumstances, it continued working for own impulse and in 1984 it was constituted as Grand Lodge of Cuba of A.F. and A.M. (in the Exterior), legally constituted according to the juridical classification of the United States of America."

"That we have the certainty, to have checked it in their inherited laws and rituals of our Grand Lodge of Cuba, that this brethren and Lodges work attached to the Masonic orthodoxy, completing the Ancient Landmarks completely, as well as those universally admitted uses and customs of the Fraternity."

And next we respectfully noted to him the following agreements, reconciled after several days of discussion:

1. - "Request to the Grand Lodge of Florida of F. and A.M. their disposition to sign treaty by means of which consents to continue working in their territory to the United Grand Lodge of Cuban in the Exterior (it names that it will adopt the previously nominated Grand Lodge of Cuba of A.F. and A.M. (in the Exterior) to all the Masonic effects), as Grand Independent Power, to contain the Cubans and Cubans descending freemasons of that -at the present time and in the future- reside in Florida territory, which will have defined as jurisdiction the one that exercises on the freemasons and Lodges to her subordinates

2. - Grant to the United Grand Lodge of Cuban in the Exterior the Authorization Letter that allows to continue working as Grand Regular Lodge, for that which we make ourselves guarantors of the orthodoxy of their works and we recognize their regular character, according the previously exposed arguments.

Concluding the communications with the following request of cooperation and understanding:

"We are requesting to the Grand Lodge of Florida of F. and A.M. their cooperation, considering this exceptional situation, to give definitive solution to a schism that has affected to the Cuban Family of the Universal Masonry for more than 50 years."

Sadly there was no response to this series of correspondence which is why we proceeded to circulate same to all the Masonic Bodies being Message N° 6 (October 14th 2013) in the month of November 2013

In this Message N° 6 the historical causes, the Masonic antecedents and the solutions were revealed so as to be further discussed.



Gran Logia de Cuba

DE A.L. Y A.M.

Constituyente de la Confederación Masónica Interamericana

GRAN MAESTRO

II - The other argument proffered by the Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge of Florida in its Circular Letter is as follows:

"The Grand Lodge of Cuba is interfering and attempting to invade the sovereignty of the territory of The Grand Lodge of Florida..."

We respectfully deny that there is or ever has been any attempt to invade in any way whatsoever the sovereignty of the territory of The Grand Lodge of Florida or any other Masonic Body.

The Grand Lodge of Cuba has NEVER ATTEMPTED ANY ACTION AGAINST THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GREAT LODGE OF THE FLORIDA. On the contrary, at all times while they were analyzing these matters, we respectfully presented all salient points supporting the unrestricted acknowledgement and respect due to the jurisdictional sovereignty of The Grand Lodge of Florida and further we stated emphatically that no solution was possible without the acceptance of the Grand Lodge of Florida and agreements thereto.

As a result of the Message Nº 6's popularization, the Masonic Press Agency of Romania requested an interview with us whereby we again iterated our most loyal respect to The Grand Lodge of Florida's sovereignty position and our intention to preserve this respect and relationships among both Grand Lodges.

In one of their questions the interviewer proposes: Does the letter sent to The Grand Lodge of Florida have the paper of explanation regarding the initiative of the Cuban Freemasons or of requesting jurisdictional help for the future?

To that which we responded:

"Our letter to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Florida, Illustrious Brother Danny R. Griffith, has that double function. On one hand we have informed of the results obtained in our conversations with our brethren in Florida, but on the other hand we are also inviting to a collaboration in the sense of signing treaty by means of which The Grand Lodge of Florida allows to work in its territory of a United Grand Lodge of Cuban in the Exterior (new formation created starting from the existent formations) that won't have territorial jurisdiction, but FUNCTIONAL JURISDICTION on its Lodges and members."

Responding to another question points out expressly:

"In the solution variants that we have evaluated as viable we always consider that it is of all impossible point the subordination of the Cuban Masonic formations in Florida to the Grand Lodge of Cuba firstly because it would constitute a territory invasion, on which we have always been firmly contrary."

"With the result that the proposal is the creation an independent Grand Regular Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Cuba, the one which - we already point out - it won't hold territorial jurisdiction, but rather its jurisdiction will be FUNCTIONAL, have more than enough its Lodges and members. This Grand Lodge will be then, under that conditions, requesting universal recognition from the Grand Regular Lodges and its right to be part of the Interamerican Masonic Confederation (C.M.I.)."

III - Lastly the Grand Lodge of Florida's Grand Secretary letter states:

"The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Cuba has visited Clandestine lodges and sat in said Lodges, as well as allowed that Clandestine Masons to sit in the Grand Lodge of Cuba."

This is just not true, we have NEVER TRAVELED TO THE FLORIDA TERRITORY IN A CAPACITY AND/OR FUNCTION OF OUR POSITION OR FOR PERSONAL REASONS and therefore it has not been possible that I had visited lodges and speak in them. Also, in the execution of of our Masonic Legislation, we have NEVER GIVEN A SEAT OR POSITION OF ANY KIND IN MASONIC WORKS TO CUBAN BRETHREN WHO ARE RESIDENTS IN FLORIDA.



Gran Logia de Cuba

DE A.L. Y A.M.

Constituyente de la Confederación Masónica Interamericana

GRAN MAESTRO

The only authorized Mason that has visited Florida in the last 10 years was the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of 33^o Degree for the Republic of Cuba, I.P. Bro. Lázaro Faustino Cuesta Valdés, who received our commission to coordinate a meeting with the Cuban brethren residing in the Florida territory to meet in a **NON MASONIC** meeting, offered by the Supreme Council, to discuss the topics of mutual interest and to find solutions to any current and outstanding issues.

The I.P. Bro. Cuesta did in fact speak personally with Grand Master Danny R. Griffith and reported to us their positive support to the proposed dialogues and related to the foregoing mutual understandings.

It is important not to forget the historical precedents of this Grand and Illustrious Brotherhood. It is not the first time that The Grand Lodge of Florida has withdrawn from fraternal relationships with the Grand Lodge of Cuba, because in a similar posture they retired the recognition in 1961, but once demonstrated that these arguments were unsubstantiated, the relationships were renewed in 1981 by agreement of the 152nd Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge of Florida, celebrated on April 29.

We are requesting to The Grand Lodge of Florida and all the Grand Lodges of the World the fraternal respect and traditions of open and honest dialogue among Brethren, in order to find mutually beneficial solution, one not tainted by erroneous suppositions so rampant in today's society.

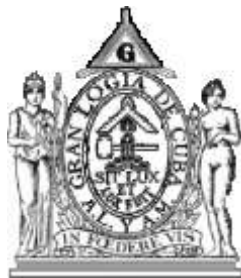
We continue to maintain our faith and trust fully as all Brothers are taught about the spirit of Fraternity in the Grand Master of Florida and we declare our position openly, freely and without cover of misinformation to sit down at a negotiation table to fully discuss these and other topics of mutual interest.

We propose an encounter during the 13th World Conference of Grand Regular Lodges in Bucharest, with the mediation of the M.W. Bro. Thomas Jackson, Executive Secretary of this Conference and of the M.W. Bro. Tomás Álvarez, Executive Secretary of the Interamerican Masonic Confederation (C.M.I.) to who we are making a party to Message N^o 8 and this initiative.

We thank you and leave with the hope that the Fraternal Love, the historical justice and the good sense of all the involved parties will find a solution to this sad situation. A solution as has always been found with the true and correct spirit of Brotherhood, Fraternity and Equality.

We request to the Grand Architect of the Universe because "SO MOT IT BE!"

Fraternally



Evaristo Kubén Gutiérrez Torres
Grand Master