

# The Supreme Council

MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD  
OF THE  
THIRTY-THIRD AND LAST DEGREE

JAMES D. COLE, 33°  
SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER



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ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF  
FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U.S.A.

April 25, 2020

TO: ALL SUPREME COUNCILS in AMITY

RE: Fraternal Recognition of Supreme Council of Romania

Illustrious Brethren:

Given the recent actions occurring in Romania, it becomes necessary to outline the policy of this Supreme Council concerning fraternal recognition.

Certainly, from its very name, the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry recognizes as its undeniable foundation the Grand Lodges of the Jurisdictions within which we operate. While our Supreme Council recognizes the right of every Grand Master to rule and govern within his jurisdiction, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry is bound to operate under the Grand Constitutions of 1762 and 1786. Our interpretations of those Constitutions and our own Statutes and fraternal recognition guidelines would generally preclude recognition of any new supreme council established directly by a Grand Lodge.

Specifically, our fraternal recognition guidelines include the following elements for any supreme council following application, to be recognized by our Supreme Council:

- Its charter must have been received from a recognized supreme council
- It must receive its members from lodges operating under the governance of a recognized grand lodge(s).
- It must adhere to the principles outlined in the Grand Constitutions of 1762 and 1786.
- It must be functioning in a stable manner
- It must be free from interference of other bodies.

After careful and thoughtful review of the events in Romania, our Supreme Council reaffirms the following: the Supreme Council, 33°, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry of the Southern Jurisdiction, United States of America (Mother Council of the World) declares itself as of this date to continue in a state of AMITY and FRATERNAL RECOGNITION with The Supreme Council of the 33rd and Last Degree of The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Romania, whose Sovereign Grand Commander is Stelian Nistor, 33°.

Every Scottish Rite Mason is first a Master Mason and as such bound by his obligations to his applicable Grand Lodge. For that reason, we strongly encourage a renewed effort from all Supreme Councils to strengthen their relationships with their Grand Lodges. The most effective method of ensuring that we meet our obligations is to communicate in the most Masonic manner possible. We are encouraged throughout our Masonic teachings to be patient, thoughtful and comforting in our dealings with one another. After all, the whole concept of fraternal recognition, phrased differently, is to be recognized as being fraternal.

On behalf of our Supreme Council, I extend to you and through you to each of your members our warmest Fraternal greetings and best wishes.

Sincerely and fraternally,

    
Sovereign Grand Commander