

# OFFICIAL SECTION

Circular No. 1  
Series of 1968 — SCHON

To all Masters, Wardens, Officers and  
Members of Subordinate Lodges

*Subject: MASONIC RECOGNITION*

Greetings:

There have been persistent reports of strong and aggressive moves on the part of members of a certain clandestine group, to establish contact with some of our individual members and with some of our Lodges for purposes as yet obscure.

So that all Lodges and members within the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge of the Philippines, F. & A. M., may be reminded as to their conduct and obligations in dealing with this and/or any situation pertaining to Masonic intercourse with Clandestine Lodges or members, Paragraph 188, Section 15, under Article III on page 27 of our Constitution is hereunder quoted: —

"No Lodge shall recognize any Body, purporting to be a Masonic Lodge, unless that Body is a subordinate Lodge of a Grand Lodge with which the Grand Lodge of the Philippines has fraternal relations; nor shall any Lodge, or any member thereof, admit or hold Masonic intercourse with a member of an unrecognized Body, with an expelled or suspended Mason, with an illegal Lodge, with any person who has received degrees therein or is a member thereof, nor with any Mason not acknowledged as such by this Grand Lodge, or recognize as a Mason any person who, being at the time a resident of the Philippines, has received, or claims to have received, the degrees of Masonry from any source beyond the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, without the proper permission, until the Lodge nearest his place of residence shall have received him as member. The proper permission above mentioned may ONLY be given by the Lodge nearest his place of residence and in the manner necessary for an election to receive the degrees."

I must stress that the above provisions of our Constitution are clear, and that no equivocation, modification or misinterpretation thereof can be tolerated.

In identifying a man as a regular Mason, no examination in signs, grips, words or Masonic dialogue must even be attempted until an inspection of his dues card is made. No regular Mason will ever object to furnishing this factual evidence which establishes the name of his Lodge, and whether he is in good standing.

If his Lodge, thus established, is not one of our own, or from outside of our jurisdiction, the matter of whether or not it is a recognized Lodge must be verified from the yearly publication of the Masonic "List of Lodges" if this is at hand, or by making inquiry from the Grand Lodge. Under no circumstances must it ever be PRESUMED that the Lodge is a regular Lodge — it must be verified.

This Circular shall be immediately posted on the Bulletin Board of each Lodge and in other prominent places within the Building, and will be read in open Lodge at the stated meeting next following its receipt, and that fact shall be mentioned in the minutes.

ATTEST:  
(Sgd.) ESTEBAN MUNARRIZ, PGM  
*Grand Secretary*

Fraternally yours,  
(Sgd.) JOSEPH E. SCHON  
*Grand Master*

Manila, August 30, 1968