



DECLARATION

of

**the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted
Masons of Bulgaria and the Worshipful Masters of the member Lodges
On the development and status of the Freemasonry in Bulgaria**

The first symbolic Masonic Lodges were established in Bulgaria immediately after the declaration of its independence in 1879. The development of Freemasonry in the country was on the rise up to 1940 and most of the ministers, university professors and respected businessmen are Free Masons. From 1940 to 1992 the totalitarian regime in Bulgaria forbade Freemasonry. The first six Masonic Lodges were reactivated after 1992, as three of them were reactivated by the Grand Lodge of Yugoslavia and the other three – by the United Grand Lodges of Germany. Five of the Lodges were united in 1996 and the United Grand Lodges of Germany by Decree No. VI/ 1997 brought the Light in the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Bulgaria on September 20, 1997. The Decree was signed by Most Worshipful Brother Reiner Schike, the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodges of Germany and the Brothers Kurt Schöff, Jimmy Avery, David Gill, Hervard Schlöke and Hans Yorg Wert. The Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Bulgaria was registered at the courts as an Association of united Lodges.

At the regular elections, held on November 21, 2001 serious disturbances were admitted and the secret vote was compromised. By a Decree No. 4, dated December 21, 2000 the Supreme Masonic Court considered the elections as vitiated and a date for new elections was fixed. The Grand Master and the Grand Officers remained in power till the new elections in December 2001.

Discontented with the decision of the Supreme Masonic Court a group of 50-60 Brothers, without waiting the new elections, split off the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Bulgaria and joined to the Grand Lodge of Bulgaria, installed by the Grand Lodge of Switzerland. This Grand Lodge of Bulgaria was declared illegal by the United Grand Lodges of Germany several times. The Memorandum was signed in the presence of the M. W. Brother Alfred Koska, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodges of Germany. The newly established Grand Lodge duplicated the name of the existing Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Bulgaria. The difference between them is that the new Grand Lodge is registered at the courts on July 20, 2001 as a private structure of three physical persons, not of United Lodges.

Till February 9, 2005 two Grand Lodges under one and the same name existed in Bulgaria. The original Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted