

ORDO SUPREMUS MILITARIS TEMPLI HIEROSOLYMITANI

Minutes of A Meeting of the

Grand Magistral Council

17-18 April 1999

Glasgow, Scotland

17 April

Saturday

Morning General Session

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer. The meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by the Grand Commander, RADM James J. Carey, and opened with a prayer by Dame Joan Campbell, Grand Prior General of the Association of Scottish Knights Templar. The following Grand Priors and Grand Officers were present: Grand Master Sir Roy Redgrave, Grand Commander RADM James J. Carey, Grand Chancellor Colonel Ronald Scott Mangum, Grand Marshall Colonel Richard Flahavan (Also holding proxy for Grand Prior NATO), Grand Referendery Judge Henry Logan, Grand Treasurer Dr. Ilkka Valimakki; Grand Prior Austria Wolfgang Odelga, Grand Prior France Dr. Marcel de Picciotto, Grand Prior General Finland Matti Koivurinta (Immediate Past Grand Prior), Grand Prior Italy Stellio Venceslai, and Grand Prior United States Colonel Stewart Boone McCarty.

2. Welcoming Remarks. The Grand Magistral Council was welcomed to Scotland by the host Grand Prior Joan Campbell. The Master, Fr. Redgrave added his welcome to the group, noting the progress being continually made by our obedience over the past years. Fr. Valimakki read a spiritual greeting from the Grand Chaplain General, Bishop Hannu Niskannen, (Attachment 7) and Fr. Carey read greetings from Princess Elisabeth zu Ysenburg u. Budingen, (Attachment 8) who is recuperating from foot surgery. Fr. Mangum read the greetings from the Deputy Grand Commander, Prof. Dr. Nicolas Haimovici, who was unable to attend.

3. Accreditation of Priors. The Grand Chancellor announced that decisional voting would be permitted by the Grand Commander and the Grand Priors of Austria, Finland, France, Italy, NATO and the United States, while consultative vote would be permitted by the Grand Chancellor, Grand Marshall, Grand Referendery and Grand Treasurer. Representation was also present from the Association of Scottish Knights Templar, the Commandery of St. Jude (Japan), the Militi Templi Scotia, both under the Grand Prior of the United States, and the Grand Priory of the Scots under the Laird Balgonie and the Grand Prior of the United States. Observers at the meeting included the OIMT Confederation, OMTB Belgium, OMT Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Comments would be permitted from any knight or dame in attendance at the discretion of the Grand Commander.

4. History of OSMTH. Because of the large number of observers present, the Grand Commander asked the Grand Chancellor to outline the history of OSMTH for all present. Fr. Mangum recounted as follows: The Regent, Fr. Fontes, called a Grand Convent of the Order for July, 1995 in London, England. Because so many questions were being raised as to the Fontes stewardship of the Order, he decided at the last minute to cancel the Grand Convent and not attend. There were Templars present in London from all over the world, and many questions were raised regarding basic operations of the Order, such as who were the officers of the Magisterium, and what was being done with the oblations forwarded to Fontes. The assembly drafted several questions for Fr. Fontes, and determined to meet in Salzburg, Austria in November, 1995 to discuss the answers.

At Salzburg (referred to as Salzburg I), no answers had been received from Fontes, and the assembled Grand Priors determined that Fontes had broken his trust with the Order and that they no longer owed any obedience to Fontes. Thus OSMTH was born and Fr. Joseph Esposito was elected Grand Commander. The Grand Priors met next in Paris, France in March, 1996 to consider the direction of the Order. Fr. Fontes was in Paris, but did not attend the meeting. A delegation of OSMTH met with Fontes and his wife and offered him the position of Regent Emeritus if he would step down peacefully. He refused, and the die was cast. The Council of Grand Priors set about working on a new organization and modern statutes which were presented for adoption in Salzburg, Austria in November, 1996 (Salzburg II). The Statutes were adopted, and Sir Roy Redgrave was elected Grand Commander. A meeting of the magisterium was held in London, England in January, 1997, primarily to plan the meeting of the Grand Council to be held in Washington, D.C., USA in October, 1997. At the Washington meeting, the cross patee was adopted as the insignia of the Order, and a White flag with the red cross patee centered was chosen as the flag of the Order. Also the minimum size of a Grand Priory (40) was determined. At the next meeting of the Grand Magisterial Council in Turku, Finland in July, 1998, the issue of oblations and voting rights was revisited and settled, Sir Roy Redgrave was elected Interim Grand Master of OSMTH, and RADM James J. Carey was elected Grand Commander. The Magisterium met in Glasgow in October 1998 to plan the present meeting. Copies of minutes of each meeting have been sent to all Grand Priors and copies are available on request from the Grand Chancellor.

Fr. Mangum emphasized that OSMTH was an organization of organizations (Grand Pories) which had adopted commonly agreed upon Statutes. The intent of OSMTH was not to interfere in the internal affairs of any Grand Priory, and any conflict between Grand Pories, or competing national groups, would be resolved by vote of the Grand Council. Each Grand Priory has one vote on the Grand Magistral Council to assure equal voice for all. Oblations are graduated according to Grand Priory size. The purpose of OSMTH is to unify the various and sundry Templar groups. All groups are welcome and presumed to be serious, unless they prove otherwise. While OSMTH adopted the cross patee as the insignia of the

Order at the international level, each Grand Priory is encouraged to maintain its own traditions and history – consequently several forms of a red cross on a white background are used by the member Grand Priories. The form of government of the Order is definitely a democratic federation with the power being in the constituent Grand Priors.

While OSMTH is proceeding to register as an international organization headquartered in Switzerland, and to seek recognition from international organizations such as the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, these are only steps to move the Order forward. No intent is made to impose any structure on any Grand Priory, and recommendations and input from all Grand Priories is welcome.

5. Minutes of Turku Meeting. The Grand Chancellor reported that the minutes of the meeting in Turku, Finland had been circulated to all Grand Officers and Grand Priors, and were available for inspection. Upon hearing no changes, the Grand Commander declared that the minutes were unanimously accepted as distributed.

6. Report of the Master. The Master reported that the Order continued to make tremendous progress in organization and worldwide recognition. A new commandery of the Grand Priory of England and Wales was to be established in Rumania in June. Action would be taken at this meeting to register the existing Order in Geneva, Switzerland, and steps were being taken to gain recognition from the United Nations as a Non Governmental Organization, all due to the aggressive leadership of the Grand Commander.

7. Report of the Grand Commander. The Grand Commander had prepared a written report which had been circulated to all Grand Officers and Grand Priors, and is attached to these minutes (Attachment 1). Rather than read the report, he referred to the steps made to solidify the organization of the Order, and invited all to visit the Order's Internet Web Page at www.OSMTH.org.

8. Report of the Grand Treasurer. The Grand Treasurer reported that the Order had, with one oblation paid at the meeting, a total of US\$6991.10 on deposit with the Bank of Aland, Finland. (Attachment 2). Fr. Valimakki proposed that the Order establish a Committee on Financial Policy to guide future expansion. Fr. Carey moved the establishment of a Budget and Finance Committee, seconded by Fr. de Picciotto, and unanimously adopted.

9. Standing Committee Reports.

A. Organization Committee. The Grand Chancellor reported that steps had been taken to register the Order as an international association headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. This registration requires a new "organizational meeting" of the Order as a *verein* under Swiss Law. The Grand Commander re-

cessed the meeting of the Grand Magistral Council, and reconvened a meeting of the organizing Grand Priors of the Swiss organization. The meeting adopted the Statutes previously adopted in Salzburg, Austria (1996), elected the current officers and authorized the Grand Commander and Grand Chancellor to complete all steps necessary to register the Order in Switzerland. The brief meeting was adjourned sine die and the Grand Magistral Council meeting reconvened.

B. Committee on History and Tradition. In the absence of Fr. Haimovici, Fr. Venceslai reported that the European Union was proposing to fund projects for the millenium celebration under Kaleidscope '99. The proposal required action from three EU countries, and Fr. Venceslai would pursue the matter further. Fr. John Ritchie of the Militi Templi Scotia offered to present an impromptu report on Templar research that he had been conducting. The presentation centered on the suppression of the original Order, and the disappearance of the Templar treasury and fleet. Fr. Ritchie offered that both may have been transferred to the Order of St. John through the purchase of Rhodes and the re-flagging of Templar ships. Fr. Ritchie will lead those present on a history tour of Melrose Abbey and the original Scottish Templar preceptory headquarters. Other history tours were scheduled by Dame Campbell for Scottish Templar sites at Kilmartin and Kilmory.

C. Committee on Awards and Devices. Fr. de Picciotto reported on proposals to adopt new symbols, insignia and mission statement for the Order. He reported that some countries in Europe were suspicious of former organizations named OSMTH, and that we should consider alternatives. This concern was also raised by the OMTB Belgium representatives. No action was taken on the proposals at this time.

10. Recess. At noon, the meeting recessed for lunch until 1330 hours.

17 April
Saturday
Afternoon General Session

11. Statement on Separation. Fr. Mangum reported that he had received some comments on the proposed Statement of Separation. The statement simply confirmed in a formal document the 1996 decision of the OSMTH Grand Priors to no longer recognize Fr. Fontes as regent of the Order. No further action was taken at this time on the formal document.

12. Confederation and IFA relations.

A. Ordo Internationalis Militiae Templi - Confederation. Fr. John Reddington,

International Prior of the Confederation, addressed the Grand Magistral Council on the discussions which the Confederation had been having on the structure of the Order. He noted that the original Order was established to protect pilgrims and was specifically religious. The current Order, however, needed different direction and goals. He reported that the Confederation was pleased with the direction that OSMTH has been taking, and wished to continue discussions regarding further cooperation. He cautioned, however, that OSMTH should be careful not to move too quickly to "set in stone" an organizational structure which others would be forced to accept or reject wholly, but to welcome divergent Templar cultures and contributions which can be offered by other Templar groups. Copies of the Rastatt Protocol (Attachment 3) establishing an International Templar umbrella group, and a report by his Chancellor Simon LeFevre (Attachment 4) were made available. He stated that the Confederation was looking toward the year 2018, the 900th anniversary of the founding of the original Order, as a date by which to achieve true unification of the Order. He stated that if the Order can get its organization right, then it could tidy up the rest of the issues. He invited continued discussions with the Confederation at its meeting in Kassel, Germany in September.

B. IFA. Fr. Mangum reported that he had sent a letter to the Executive Secretary of the IFA, Luis de Matos, dated 24 December 1998, (Attachment 5) requesting that the IFA and the OSMTH form the joint committees that had been agreed to in Lisbon, Portugal In 1997. The purpose was to continue discussions on cooperation. No reply to the letter had been received, and no further information was available on the IFA's efforts to elect a Grand Master.

13. Election of the Grand Master. Sir Roy Redgrave was elected in Turku as "interim" Grand Master of the OSMTH. Upon the proposal of the Grand Commander, Sir Roy was unanimously elected as the Grand Master for the term set out in the Statutes. Sir Roy emphasized, however, that he would continue to work with all Templar groups to effect unity of effort of the Order.

14. Charity. The decision had been made in Turku that most of the charity of the Order would be carried out by the Grand Priories. The Grand Commander asked each of the Grand Priors to report briefly on their charity since Turku. Finland reported that it had taken on two main charitable activities for the year, support of a children's hospital in Karelia and support of the Lutheran Church School of the Lutheran Ecumenical Bishop of Jerusalem. NATO reported that it gave approximately US\$5,000 split between a children's health clinic operated by Patriarch Maximos V Hakim in the Holy Land, and Doctors without Borders. France reported that it focused its support on providing meals for those in need. USA reported gifts to the Franciscan Fathers to support their activities in the Holy Land, and approximately US\$4,000 to the activities of Patriarch Maximos V Hakim. England reported that its support went to the Templar Charitable Trust in England.

Austria reported that its charity was in support of orphans in the Holy Land and Caritas. Italy reported that its contributions went to Caritas, Byzantine programs in Rome and aid to Kosovo.

15. Religious Protector. The Grand Commander emphasized that at the present time, the Order does not have a religious protector. A request to Maximos V Hakim to confirm his prior agreement to serve as protector of several OSMTH Grand Priories was rejected by the Patriarch. A report from a German Templar Prior that the Patriarch's Archbishop of Jerusalem was encouraging German Templars to join the schismatic Rind group was greeted with dismay. Suggestions were voiced by GPUSA and others to re-direct future contributions to other Holy Land charities such as the Lutheran Bishop of Jerusalem, who is being supported by the Finnish Grand Priory (Attachment 6). While each Grand Priory is encouraged to seek a senior religious leader to serve as its spiritual advisor, a search for an acceptable religious protector for the Order will continue.

16. Adjournment. At 1500 hours, the Grand Commander adjourned the meeting until the next morning so that all present could attend the investiture at the 12th century Paisley Abbey and gala dinner of the Grand Priory of Scotland.

18 April
Sunday
Afternoon General Session

17. Call to Order. The meeting was reconvened at 1330 hours in the great hall of Balgonie Castle. A warm welcome was given by the Laird Balgonie, Raymond Morris.

18. Other Business.

A. Petitions of Affiliation. The Grand Chancellor announced that he had received the formal petition of the Association of Scottish Knights Templar to associate with OSMTH. He also announced that he had been given a letter from the Militi Templi Scotia expressing its intent to submit its petition to re-establish its affiliation with OSMTH. Both petitions will be reviewed for completeness and presented to the next meeting of the Grand Magistral Council.

B. Resolution of Gratitude. The Grand Commander asked for a resolution thanking Dame Joan Campbell and her husband James Campbell for hosting a wonderful event for the Grand Magistral Council in their lovely and historic Scotland. The resolution passed unanimously.

19. Next Meeting. The Grand Commander opened the floor for discussion of the time and place of the next Grand Magistral Council meeting to be held in the fall. The Grand Prior of Austria offered to host a meeting in Vienna, and the Grand Prior of the US offered to host a meeting in conjunction with the October meeting of the GPUSA in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Grand Commander asked the Grand Priors to poll their members and report back to him.

(Subsequently it was determined that the next meeting of the Grand Magistral Council would be held on 28-29 October 1999 in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. See Attachment 9).

20. Closing Prayer. The Grand Marshall, Fr. Flahavan, was asked to provide the closing prayer.

21. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Colonel Ronald Scott Mangum, GCTJ

Grand Magistral Chancellor