



## **DECR chairman meets with the leader of the Lebanese Kataeb Party**

On 3 November 2018, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, met with a delegation of the Lebanese Kataeb (Phalange) Party and its leader Mr. Sami Gemayel.

Taking part in the meeting were also Metropolitan Niphon of Philippopolis, representative of the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, and Deacon Andrei Titushkin, a staff member of the DECR Secretariat for Far Abroad Countries.

Metropolitan Hilarion warmly greeted the guests from Lebanon in the oldest Synodal institution responsible for external contacts of the Russian Church.

Mr. Gemayel thanked the DECR chairman for the opportunity to hold the meeting and told the Russian hierarch about the activities of his party representing the interests of the Maronite Christians and representatives of other confessions in Lebanon.

Metropolitan Hilarion shared with the guests his impressions of his visits to the Lebanese Republic and noted that he cherished very good memories of the hospitality and friendliness of the Lebanese people. The DECR chairman also noted the centuries-old close contacts between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Patriarchate of Antioch that are actively developing these days thanks, in many respects, to the efforts of Metropolitan Niphon of Philippopolis who was present at the meeting.

The participants in the meeting discussed various issues pertaining to the plight of Christians in the Middle East. As Metropolitan Hilarion emphasized, the Russian Orthodox Church devotes unceasing attention and renders aid to its persecuted Christian brothers and sisters in the region of Middle East.

*DECR Communication Service*