



## Metropolitan Hilarion meets with Cuba's ambassador to Russia



On March 24, 2015, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, met with the Republic of Cuba's ambassador to Russia, Mr. Emilio Lozada Garcia. Participating in the meeting from the DECR were also Archimandrite Philaret (Bulekov), DECR vice-chairman, Archpriest Sergiy Zvonarev, secretary for the far abroad and Miguel Palacio of the secretariat for the far abroad. Mr. Alejandro Simancas attended the meeting from the Cuban embassy.

In the course of the talk, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, Metropolitan Hilarion and Ambassador Lozada Garcia discussed the current matters concerning cooperation between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Republic of Cuba. They noted the importance of the church of Our Lady of Kazan in Havana for Russian-Cuban humanitarian relations and development of religious life in Cuba. In 2008, this church was consecrated by the then head of the Department for External Church Relations of

the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad (now Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia).

At the guest's request, the DECR chairman informed him about the situation in eastern Ukraine and the state of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate.

They also considered items for the common agenda.

*DECR Communications Service*

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