



Mr. Lupu thanked His Holiness for the warm words and noted that his country had covered a long way for the twenty years since she gained independence. Moldova's political leaders, he said, attached special importance to cultural, intellectual and religious values and gave high value to the role of the Church in strengthening morals.

'There are fundamental values on which the life of society as a whole depends. These are the values of family, relations between parents and children and mutual respect of generations. Here the state and the Church have a common mission. I am glad to note that we have always had very good cooperation and mutual understanding with the Metropolia of Moldova and very good relations with the Metropolitan of Kishinev and All Moldova for the benefit of the people', he said and assured Patriarch Kirill that the state of Moldova wished to continue 'to carry out the tasks of development and progress in the Republic of Moldova' together with the Church.

*Patriarchal Press Service/DECR Communication Service*

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