DECR chairman's message to the 4th Cadet Congress in Serbia

Metropolitan Hilarion, head of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, sent the following message of greetings to the cadet congress held from June 28 to July 6, 2011, in Serbia.

Dear Cadet Friends,

I wholeheartedly greet you as you have assembled for the 4th Cadets Congress organized by the Aleksej Jordan Cadet Corps Support Fund. It is already for the fourth time that a congress of cadets from Russia is held in Serbia to become a good tradition contributing to the consolidation of bonds between our fraternal nations.

This year, your congress is timed to coincide with the 90th anniversary of Russian cadet corps' arrival to the lands of Southern Slavs. It is my conviction the memory of those remote times will become an invisible thread linking today's cadets with the cadets of the 1920th who were forced to flee their homeland after the tragic events of the Civil War.

It is gratifying to see your diligence in learning military sciences, to become educated and highly moral people committed to your Motherland. I hope that you will become worthy successors to the glorious traditions of those who had glorified their nation. The Russian Orthodox Church wishes that all the teachers and students of military schools may zealously aspire to the lofty ideals of the service of their homeland. These ideals are based on Christ our Saviour's commandment: 'Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends' (Jn. 15:13).

I prayerfully wish all the participants in the Cadets Congress God's help in their service of their homeland and people.

Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk

Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations

Moscow Patriarchate

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