



## **DECR chairman meets with Kyrgyzstan's foreign minister**

[gallery]

On March 28, 2011, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk met at the Department for External Church Relations with Kyrgyzstan's foreign minister R. Kazakbaev, who is in Moscow for an official visit.

Giving a warm welcome to his high guest, His Eminence Hilarion said that the peoples of Russia and Kyrgyzstan were tied by long and lasting relations. He also told Mr. Kazakbaev about the areas in which his department is engaged in its work.

Mr. Kazakbaev in this response thanked the metropolitan for the opportunity for a talk and informed him about the progress of his visit. According to the minister, relations between Russia and Kyrgyzstan are actively developing within the agreements signed. The socio-political situation in his country is stabilizing, inter-ethnic relations are being strengthened and interreligious dialogue is developing. Pointing to the role and importance of the Russian Orthodox Church in the life of Kyrgyzstan, the minister said, 'Orthodoxy makes an important contribution to the development of the country and building of interreligious accord'.

Metropolitan Hilarion expressed the conviction that traditional religious communities can make a weighty contribution to the establishment of peace in Kyrgyzstan.

*DECR Communication Service*