Metropolitan Hilarion attends Paschal reception at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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On 8 April 2010, a Paschal reception was given at the mansion of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for external church relations was among the guests.

Also invited to the reception were Archbishop Arseny of Istra; Bishop Kirill of Pavlovsky Posad, head of the Synodal department for relations with the Cossacks; archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin; chairman of the Synodal department for Church –society relations; Vladimir Legoida, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Information department; staff members of the Synodal department, and Orthodox clerics. Representatives of the Local Orthodox Churches at the Moscow Patriarchate attended the reception, too.

Representatives of the Russian Presidential administration, Russian Federal Assembly, ministries, non-governmental organizations, business community, as well as foreign diplomats, representatives of the non-Orthodox Christian Churches and traditional religious communities of Russia were among the guests.

Deputy Foreign Minister G. Karasin greeted the guests and conveyed Paschal greeting from Minister Lavrov who was taking part in the ceremony of signing the Russian-American SNV reduction agreement.

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