



Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk has a talk with prime minister of Moldova

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Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, visited on 20 March 2010 the Republic of Moldova's state residence for a meeting with the Moldovan Prime Minister Vladimir Filat. They were joined in their talk by Moldovan Foreign Minister Yu. Lyanke, Minister of Justice A. Tanasie, Metropolitan Vladimir of Kishinev and All Moldova and Rev. Igor Yakimchuk, DECR acting secretary for inter-Orthodox relations.

Mr. Filat explained to his guests the situation in Moldova, which is going through a protracted political crisis.

Metropolitan Hilarion noted that it was a priority for all political forces in the republic to overcome the social disunity. Success, he said, will accompany a politician who will be able to offer ideas which unite people. This consolidating basis may be found in traditional moral values preserved by the Church. From his point of view, the liberal ideological standard, the acceptance of which as obligatory for all has often been suggested to such countries as Moldova today, should be harmonized with the traditional way of life. The Church as the pivot around which the life of the Moldovan people has always been built could make a considerable contribution to this harmonization.

The metropolitan expressed hope for a positive development of Moldova's relations with neighbouring states, especially Russia, and pointed to the need to elaborate a long-term strategy for cooperation.

On the same day, Metropolitans Vladimir and Hilarion paid a visit to the Kishinev City Council to meet with Mayor Dorin Kirtoake.