



DECR chairman meets with Russian Ambassador in Brazil S. Akopov

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Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, met on March 9, 2010, with the newly-appointed Russian Ambassador in Brazil S. Akopov. They were joined in their talk by Hegumen Philip (Riabykh), DECR vice-chairman, Rev. Dionisy Kazantsev, rector of Sts Peter and Paul's in Santa Rosa and the church of St. John the Theologian in Campina das Missoes, Brazil, and Mr. M. Palacio, DECR staff member.

His Eminence Hilarion told Mr. Akopov about the present status of Russian Orthodoxy in Brazil, drawing his attention to the fact that the Brazilian parishes of the Church Outside Russia rejected the restoration of canonical communion in the Russian Orthodox Church. According to Metropolitan Hilarion, the reason for it to a great extent is that a considerable number of the Russian emigres in Brazil live by out-of-date ideas of their historical homeland and the Moscow Patriarchate. 'Our common task is to help our compatriots to learn the truth about the Mother Church', he said.

His Eminence expressed hope that cooperation between the DECR and the Russian embassy in Brazil will grow and urged Mr. Akopov to take special effort for introducing local people to the Russian spiritual tradition and the history and today's life of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Mr. Akopov, on his part, assured the DECR chairman of his readiness to help in all possible ways to develop the presence of Russian Orthodoxy in Brazil.

In token of the meeting, Metropolitan Hilarion gave the new Russian ambassador in Brazil a disk with his composition *Passions According to St. Matthews*.

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