



DECR chairman attends grand reception given on the occasion of Russian President's visit to France

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Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met on 2 March 2010 with Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe on the occasion of the opening of a Year of Russia in France. They discussed cooperation with the Paris City Council including the construction of a spiritual and cultural center on Quai Branly. Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's department for external church relations, participated in the event, representing the Russian Orthodox Church.

Welcoming the Russian President during the grand reception at the City Council, Mr. Delanoe stressed the role of Russian emigres in developing the intellectual and cultural life of the French capital city.

The head of the Russian State thanked the mayor of Paris and in his person all Parisians for the warm and friendly welcome. Noting that expatriate Russians have left a vivid and original mark in the history of French culture, Mr. Medvedev said, 'And today too, the Russian diaspora plays a noticeable role in the life of the French capital city, strengthening friendship and trust between people of the two states'.

Present at the grand reception from the Russian Orthodox Church were Metropolitan Hilarion, Hegumen Philip Riabykh, DECR vice-chairman, Hegumen Philaret Bulekov, Moscow Patriarchate representative to the Council of Europe, Archpriest Antony Ilyin, acting representative of the Moscow Patriarchate to European international organization, and Hieromonk Alexander Sinyakov, rector of Paris Orthodox Seminary.

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