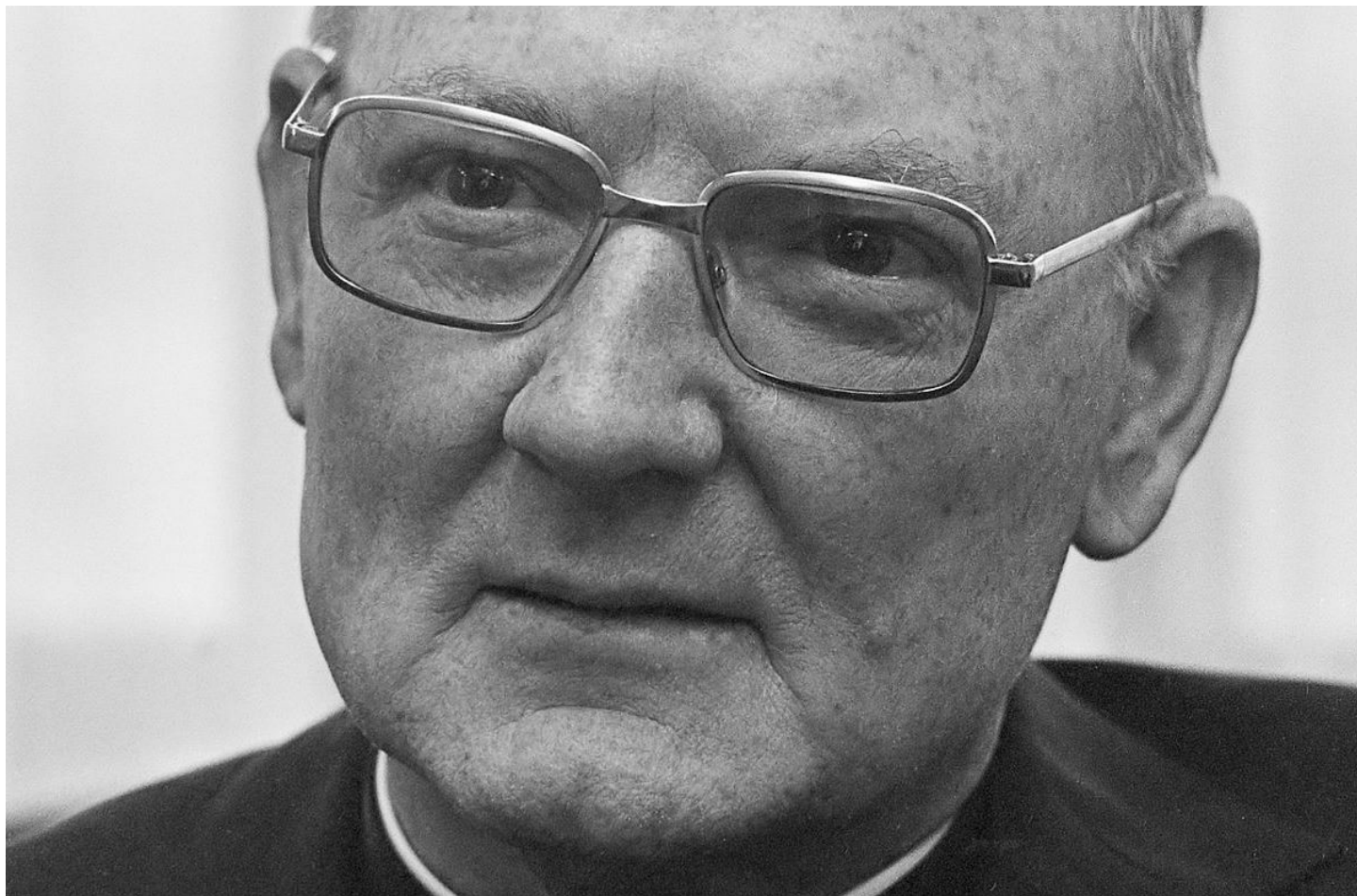




THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Department for External Church Relations

DECR Chairman sent condolences on the death of Cardinal Edward Cassidy



Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, sent a message to Cardinal Kurt Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, expressing his condolences on the death of Cardinal Edward Cassidy, who previously served as head of this Council. The message reads as follows:

His Eminence KURT Cardinal KOCH
President
Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

Your Eminence,

On behalf of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia and on my behalf I offer you condolences over the demise of His Eminence Edward Cardinal Cassidy, who had earlier held the post of President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Called to work in the field of church diplomacy soon after his ordination to priesthood, the late hierarch did much to develop the Holy See's relationships with countries of Latin America and Asia. The accumulated experience was valuable to him in fostering inter-Christian relations as well. In his capacity as President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity he contributed substantially to the development of the Roman Catholic Church's contacts with the Russian Orthodox Church. I had an opportunity to cooperate with the newly deceased cardinal in the late 1990s and early 2000s, participating together with him in meetings of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Churches in Baltimore in 2000.

May our Lord and God abounding in steadfast love to all who call on Him (Ps 86:5) grant rest to the soul of His servant in the mansions of the righteous.

With sincere condolences,

**/+Hilarion/
Metropolitan of Volokolamsk
Chairman
Department for External Church Relations
Moscow Patriarchate**