



## His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem meets with Russian Ambassador to Israel



On September 6, 2021, H.E. Anatoly D. Viktorov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the State of Israel, visited the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine, received the Russian diplomat in the Small Throne Hall.

Other participants in the meeting were Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina, Secretary-General of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem; hieromonk Dometian (Markaryan), deputy head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem; and Mr. A. Gavrilov, second secretary of the Russian Embassy in Jerusalem.

Their talk covered the issues of state-confessions cooperation in terms of strengthening the unity of world Orthodoxy, including the support of inter-church dialogue. Maintaining the religious status quo on the territory of Israel was underlined as a very important task.

Special attention was given to the matters of ensuring inviolability of the Orthodox religious property and holy sites in the Holy Land.

Ambassador Viktorov underscored the invariable Russia's course in support and protection of the interests of the Orthodox in the Middle East.

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