



## Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk meets with Russian Ambassador to Lebanon



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On January 20, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR), currently in Lebanon with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and all Rus', visited the Russian Embassy in Beirut and met with H.E. Alexander Rudakov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Lebanon. Attending the meeting were Archpriest Nikolay Balashov, adviser to His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR vice-chairman; Archimandrite Philip (Vasiltsev), representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' to the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East; Rev. Alexander Yershov, assistant to the DECR chairman, and Mr. Yegor I. Skopenko, executive director of the Foundation for the Support of Christian Culture and Heritage.

With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, Metropolitan Anthony presented Ambassador Rudakov with a high church award – the Order of St. Alexander Nevsky, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, for his contribution to the development of church-state relations and in connection with his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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