



## His Holiness Patriarch Kirill meets with students of Higher Diplomatic Courses



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On November 14, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia spoke before a group of students of the Higher Diplomatic Courses of the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Taking part in the meeting were also Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations; Archpriest Nikolai Balashov, adviser to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia; Archimandrite Philaret (Bulekov), Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk and Archpriest Nikolai Lischenyuk, DECR deputy chairmen; Mr Alexander Yakovenko, rector of the Diplomatic Academy; Mr Oleg Karpovich, Diplomatic Academy pro-rector for research work; Mr Mikhail Troyansky, dean of the Advanced Training Faculty of the Diplomatic Academy; Ms Tamara Vershinina,

deputy dean of the Advanced Training Faculty; Archpriest Sergy Zvonarev, DECR secretary for far abroad countries; and Rev. Andrei Titushkin of the DECR Secretariat for Far Abroad Countries.

Among the attendees were heads of the Russian foreign ministry's divisions, appointed to posts abroad, and staff members of the Ministry's central office.

In his speech His Holiness Patriarch Kirill dwelt on the Russian Orthodox Church's contacts with other Local Orthodox Churches, Christian confessions and various religious communities, as well as on the Church's work aimed at offering pastoral guidance to the Russian citizens residing abroad.

His Holiness also thanked the Department for External Church Relations for its work and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for cooperation.

Mr Alexander Yakovenko, rector of the Diplomatic Academy, expressed gratitude to the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church on behalf of the audience for the fruitful meeting.

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