



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill meets with students of Higher Diplomatic Courses



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On June 4, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' spoke before a group of students of the Higher Diplomatic Courses of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

Among those attending the meeting were archpriest Nikolai Balashov, advisor to His Holiness; archpriests Igor Yakimchuk and Nikolai Lischenyuk, DECR deputy chairmen; Mr. Mikhail Troyansky, vice-rector of the Diplomatic Academy; Ms Tamara Vershinina, vice-dean of the faculty of advanced training for diplomatic staff; and Rev. Andrei Titushkin, a DECR staff member.

The listeners included heads of divisions appointed to posts abroad and designated employees of the

Ministry's central office.

In his speech, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill told Russian diplomats about inter-Orthodox relations, contacts of the Russian Orthodox Church with other Christian confessions and non-Christian religious communities as well as about the Church's work aimed at offering pastoral care of compatriots living abroad.

Also, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill answered questions from the meeting participants.

Mr. Troyansky conveyed greetings from Mr. Alexander Yakovenko, rector of the Academy, to the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church and expressed gratitude for the meeting and insightful conversation.

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