



## Representatives of the Russian and Serbian Orthodox Churches participate in celebrations to mark the eightieth anniversary of the liberation of Belgrade during the Second World War.



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A solemn reception was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at the Serbian embassy in Russia on the occasion of the eightieth anniversary of Belgrade during the Second World War. Taking part in the reception at the invitation of the Serbian ambassador to Russia Momčilo Babić were the representative of the Patriarch of Serbia to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia the bishop of Remisiana Stefan and advisor to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia archpriest Nikolai Balashov, as well as colleague of the secretariat of the Department for External Church Relations for affairs of the distant abroad Father Andrei Titushkin.

In his speech at the reception of the deputy chairman of the Serbian government Aleksandar Vulin stated that at present fascism was once more rearing its head when people are forbidden to pray to God in their own church and the world is plunging into anti-Russian hysteria. Mr. Vulin emphasized that

Serbs, unlike many other peoples of Europe who are obliged to Russia for their freedom, will never fail to show their gratitude to their Russian brethren and their own ancestors: “We Serbs have never committed such a sin and never will.”

Among the participants of the memorial event, which included a performance by the choir of the Academic Assembly of Song and Dance of the Russian Army, a multi-media presentation and photo exhibition entitled ‘Operation Belgrade 1944’, were also the deputy minister for foreign affairs of Russia A. V. Grushko, the director of the Yevgeny Primakov Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, compatriots living abroad and international humanitarian cooperation, official representative of the Russian foreign ministry Maria Zkharova, the director of the Fourth European department of the Russian foreign ministry Yu. V. Pilipson, representatives of the Federation Council and the State Duma, Serbian and Russian public figures and veterans.

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