Delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church meets with Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam



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On 30 October, a meeting between Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and a delegation of the Russian Orthodox Church took place at the Grand Serail, the seat of the Lebanese government in Beirut. The delegation had arrived in the country to attend the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the Moscow Patriarchate Metochion in the Lebanese capital. It was headed by Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations.

Metropolitan Anthony conveyed to Nawaf Salam the greetings and best wishes of His Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'.

During the meeting, the DECR Chairman emphasised the importance of the fraternal relations between the Antiochian and Russian Orthodox Churches for the peoples under their pastoral care. He also spoke

about the role of the Russian Metochion in Lebanon and the activities of the Representative Office of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society.

For his part, the Prime Minister noted that the ties between the two Orthodox Churches contribute to the development of good relations between Russia and Lebanon. Nawaf Salam expressed his hope that the return of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society to Lebanon would help strengthen relations between the public communities of the two countries. In the course of the conversation, the head of the Lebanese government also highlighted the importance of international student exchanges.

The meeting was also attended by Metropolitan Niphon of Philippopolis, Representative of the Patriarch of Antioch to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Archpriest Nikolai Balashov, Advisor to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Archimandrite Philip (Vasiltsev), Representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' to the Patriarchal See of Antioch; S.V. Stepashin, Chairman of the IOPS; Wadih Haddad, Head of the IOPS Representative Office in Lebanon; and A.N. Rudakov, Ambassador of Russia to Lebanon.

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