



**THE EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
IN THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

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PRESS RELEASE

The Message of Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, to the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church Over the Death of Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
TO THE HOLY SYNOD
OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Moscow, December 5, 2008

I offer my deepest and most sincere condolences over the death of the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia.

Patriarch Alexy II fulfilled a high, noble mission and occupied an outstanding place in contemporary Russian history. He was destined to revive the Russian Church and to bring millions of our citizens back to spiritual sources. Thousands of churches have again been opened and the traditions of charity, peacemaking and service of the Church for the good of Russian society and overseas compatriots have been restored.

Of everlasting significance for us all was the signing in May 2007 of the Act of Canonical Communion between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, crowning years of effort by His Holiness to consolidate the Russian Orthodox world.

It is impossible to overestimate the contribution of the Primate of the Church to strengthening the positions of our Fatherland in the world and enhancing the international prestige of Russia. His firm stand for the preservation of moral principles in politics and for the promotion of understanding between peoples and civilizations is, undoubtedly, an important part of his legacy.

The indefatigable pastoral activities of Alexy II earned him the love and respect of believers and all Russians, and invariably served as a moral beacon in the difficult years of the rise of new Russia. His life exploit will remain a vivid and inspiring example.

The entire staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation will always retain a fond memory of His Holiness in their hearts.

S. LAVROV