



STANDING HOLY SYNOD IN RESISTANCE

Regular Sessions

III (November 8, 2007 [Old Style]) and IV (November 14, 2007 [Old Style])

I. On November 8, 2007 (Old Style) and November 14, 2007 (Old Style), the Standing Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Greece, Synod in Resistance, convened for its regular session (III) and for a special session (IV).

1. His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, as Acting President, presided over these two sessions, which were attended by Their Graces, Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes of Gardikion, the latter serving as Secretary.

2. The two sessions were held at the Headquarters of the Holy Synod in Resistance, that is, at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, near Phyle, Attica, Greece.

3. The Standing Holy Synod convenes on a regular basis every two weeks, on Tuesday; when there is an impediment, the date of the next session will be determined by the members of the Synod.

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II. The Standing Holy Synod dealt with a variety of matters, of which the following are deemed worthy of publication.

1. The Synod decided to establish a “**Synodal Fund for the Assistance of Clergy,**” with a view to providing special financial assistance to those of our clergy—primarily Hierarchs—who are in need. This assistance will be discretionary and token in nature, since it is quite impossible for the Holy Synod to assume full responsibility for the financial burdens of each individual clergyman, let alone of all of its clergy.

• To this end, an Encyclical on the aforesaid subject will be sent to our parishes, monasteries, and communities, so that they might make regular, even if only token, contributions to the prospective “**Synodal Fund for the Assistance of Clergy.**” In the meantime, the broader issue of the regular financial needs of all of our clergy, and the coverage thereof, will be given careful consideration.

2. It was decided to arrange that in all of our parishes and monasteries throughout Greece one of our Hierarchs should be present regularly, on a rotating basis, to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and to support our Rational Flock in deed and word.

• His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion was charged with preparing, in due time, a schedule of Hierarchical Liturgies for each month.

3. His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone gave a report to the Holy Synod concerning his recent pastoral journey to Australia (October 26-November 6, 2007 [Old Style]). During this visit, he received the Serbian Archpriest, Father Dragan Saracevic, who has placed himself under our jurisdiction, and appointed him temporary Rector of the Cathedral of the Holy Unmercenaries, in Sydney.

• While in Australia, His Grace held separate meetings with certain Russian clergymen of different jurisdictions. The focus of their conversations was the timely and burning issue of the union between the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and the Moscow Patriarchate (May 4/17, 2007) and the various issues raised thereby.

4. The need for the better organization and support of our mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is certainly a matter of urgency, was again discussed.

• The purchase of a building in the capital, Kinshasa, to serve as the headquarters and center of our missionary activities is imminent.

5. A detailed program was drawn up for the visit to Greece (November 15-20, 2007 [Old Style]) of His Eminence, Bishop Agafangel of Odessa and Tauris, who, as First Hierarch of the Temporary Supreme Ecclesiastical Administration of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, heads that segment of Russian Orthodox Christians who have rejected the union between the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and the Moscow Patriarchate (May 4/17, 2007).

• The members of the Synod read, examined in detail, and made emendations to the draft of a document, initially composed by the Right Reverend Acting President and entitled “**Memorandum Regarding Principles of Coöperation Between Greek and Russian Anti-Ecumenists**” (I. Introduc-

tion; **II.** Causes of the Rupture of Communion; **III.** Unity and a Common Perspective; **IV.** Corollaries of Unity), which will be submitted for further study and joint emendation at a special meeting with His Eminence, Bishop Agafangel. Provided there is full agreement, this document will be signed as the written basis of our future coöperation.

At the Headquarters of the Holy Synod in Resistance,
Phyle, Attica
November 15, 2007 (Old Style)
Holy Martyrs Gourias, Samonas, and Habib

*From the Chancery of the Holy Synod
† Bishop Klemes of Gardikion*