

## **Russian Patriarch receives speaker of Korea's National Assembly**



The Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill, this week received the speaker of Korea's National Assembly, Moon Hee-sang, at his Patriarchal residence in Moscow.

In his comments, the Russian Patriarch noted that Russia and Korea are countries with a rich cultural and spiritual tradition, and as such, inter-cultural dialogue should play an important role in bilateral relations.

He also said religious issues must be resolved.

The Primate of the Russian Church has travelled and toured both South and North Korea, underlining that he is actively participating in an international movement to reunify the Korean peninsula, under the auspices of the World Council of Churches.

In a related development from Moscow, the spokesman for the Russian Patriarchate, Fr. Aleksander Volkov, referred to the need for more Russian Orthodox Churches to open in Europe.

Fr. Volkov said new Russian Orthodox parishes will soon open on Cyprus and in Sweden.

His Holiness Kirill recently announced that the Russian Church is opening, on average, a staggering three churches per day, with nearly 10,000 cathedrals and chapels having been constructed and reopened over the past decade.