

## **Moscow Patriarchate on role on Ecumenical Patriarch in Ukrainian Church issue**



A spokesman for the Patriarchate of Moscow, Vladimir Legoida, this week referred to the role of the Ecumenical Patriarch regarding the contentious issue of Autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, as well as recent contacts initiated by the Archbishop of Cyprus, His Beatitude Chrysostomos II, over the same issue.

According to the Legoida, the Moscow Patriarchate is aware of certain efforts being made by the Archbishop of Cyprus to defuse the crisis revolving around the Ukrainian Church.

The Russian Church spokesman assessed that this shows a weakness, as he said, on the part of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to resolve what he called the complex situation in the Ukraine.

Lagoida said "... The Russian Orthodox Church has repeatedly stressed its desire and the need for a Pan-Orthodox resolution of the issue, because it cannot be resolved unilaterally."

In a related development linked with Russia, reports this week state that the overall budget for building new Orthodox cathedrals and chapels in the world

biggest country reaches 2.5 billion US dollars.

The figure was included in the recent edition of Euroasia Review, with the publication noting that the funds do not come from state coffers, except in the case of the restoration of a handful of historic cathedrals.

According to the same publication, 90 percent of the funds are in the form of donations, especially from well-off Russians.