

Василь Сидоренко "Євромайдан - церква і Народ" неділя, 16-го березня, 2014

{youtube}ZU2l9OgJu_o{/youtube}

John Jaresko [Facebook]

[March 25 at 8:59am](#) · [Chicago, IL, United States](#)

A video from the first public forum on the work of the "Canoncial Assembly of Orthodox Bishops" held in Parma, OH. This video shows the proof that the Ecumenical Patriarch and his Assembly of Bishop's main purpose is to create one Orthodox Church in the USA with one administrative hierarchy etc. Not only do the hierarchs of the former UOC in USA support this but they sit on the board of this group. If one watches the whole video they will see the proposals for the unification of jurisdictions. How much more will it take for the parishes and parishioners of the UOC of USA and UOCC to realize they are losing everything that was built and have sold off our churches to a foreign entity. I relate this back to today's current situation in

Ukraine, if Ukrainians in the U.S. and Canada don't stand up for their own church, what can be expected when it comes time to stand up for their country. These proposals and plans destroy everything that was sacred to our grandparents and parents. Listen carefully as they show you a plan which swallows the former Ukrainian parishes. In addition I want to make it known that the ROCOR Russian parishes have now quit the Assembly and state that they wish to remain under the "Mother Church" the Moscow Patriarchate. While Ukrainians from the EP run UOC of USA and UOCC cannot make a decision on who they will stand with at panachydas.....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJpnoCl1OnA>

{youtube}CJpnoCl1OnA{/youtube}

Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia – Moscow Patriarchate 16/1/2014

Letter from the Secretary of the Synod of Bishops to the Chairman of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North and Central America

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/01/letter-from-the-secretary-of-the-synod-of-bishops-to-the-chairman-of-the-assembly-of-canonical-orthodox-bishops-in-north-and-central-america/>

READ THIS, from 1985... we were warned... Блаженіший Владика Василій - Митрополит Української Православної Церкви в Канаді

[Excerpt from his speech at the Sobor, 1985]

Наші негативи у наших спокусах. Дуже нездоровим явищем є, коли духовні або миряни захоплюються новітніми, скрайніми рухами, які дають на шкоду нашій Церкві. Я маю на увазі такі рухи: харизматизм, пан-православ'є. Пан-православ'є є проти всякого національного характеру Православних Церков, а це загрожує їхньому існуванню, включно з нашою Церквою. Православна Церква Америки (ОСА) поширює свої впливи і в Канаді. Церква ОСА - це твір Московського Патріарха, завданням якого є ліквідувати національність.

Будьмо свідомо того, що ці нові рухи відривають молодь від їх рідних Церков, а теж від рідного національного кореня, від дому, родини.

Тож, всякі псевдо-релігійні, або й нерелігійні ідеї, що проявляються в модерному часі в різних людських мудруваннях для нашого духового національного знищення - треба старанно і розумно поборювати.

Треба бути собою, плекати в собі і в серці наших дітей свідомість, що Єдина, Свята, Соборна й Апостольська Православна Церква, до якої належить наш народ - це основна твердиня Божої Правди в світі, і достоїнноберегти істину, яку ми перейняли від наших попередників, та маємо передати ненарушеною нашим наступникам.

Дальша динамічна сила нашої Церкви є в жертвенності її вірних. Усі матеріальні і духовні здобутки нашої Церкви і нашого українського суспільства поза межами України - постали в наслідок нашої української жертвенности. Ми в Канаді горді з своїх здобутків - прекрасних церков, інститутів, колегії, священничих резиденцій та просторих модерних аудиторій.

KGB/FSB Association with Russian Orthodox Church

June 29, 2010 at 2:12am

Konstantin Preobrazhensky was a KGB spy, earning the rank of Lt. Colonel before defecting to the US in 1993. He served several years in Japan under the cover of a reporter for TASS before being having his visa pulled in 1985 for suspicion of being a spy. He has authoured at least five books in Russian and one in Japanese. This is a chapter from his 2009 English language book "KGB/FSB's New Trojan Horse: Americans of Russian Descent".

Putin's Espionage Church

By Konstantin Preobrazhensky

1. Russian Victory Over America

On May 17, 2007, Russia has gained a historical victory over America. It has opened its province here, which is called the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Of Russia (ROCOR). On this day it has recognized Moscow's superiority over itself by signing an Act of Canonical Community with the Moscow Patriarchate (MP). But in Russia the Church and state separated only on paper. In fact, the Moscow Patriarchate (MP) is controlled by the Russian neo-KGB state and has always been the pawn of the Russian intelligence.

Though a part of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Of Russia (ROCOR) has refused to come under Moscow's rule and retained independence, many thousands of Russian Americans and their children are now nourished in the spirit of loyalty to authoritarian Russia, which is becoming hostile to America day-by-day.

KGB-backed priests with Russian passports are replacing local clergy. Their churches have become insidious fronts for Russian state interests no matter how our relations evolve in the future.

Initially, ROCOR has been the Church of Imperial Russia, brought to the West by

Russian emigres after the Communist revolution of 1917. While the Moscow

Patriarchate (MP) was founded by Stalin in 1943 for political purpose: enhancing

patriotism in Russia and spying on the ill-hated West. In preparation of the

seizure of ROCOR, the KGB has been infiltrated it for over 70 years! From 2000,

President Putin has personally guided this mammoth KGB operation.

2. Confessions of Aleksey II

It is interesting, why do the Moscow Patriarchate (MP) hierarchs so persistently

resist repenting their cooperation with the KGB? Metropolitan Chrysostom, after

all, acknowledged his collaboration, and nothing happened to him. No one fired

him. Why are others silent?

I used to think that they were silent because of their fear of new exposures.

For instance, if you admit having collaborated with the KGB, that could lead to

the exposure of also your membership in the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet

Union). How would ROCOR react to that?

Yes, the leadership of the MP all were members of the Communist Party, which

has been skillfully concealed. They say that the first Communist within the

church was Patriarch Pimen. He was a Senior officer of the Red Army, and joined

the Communist Party at the front.

There could not have been any officers who believed in God, nor officers who

were not Communist Party members. More than that, they were all forced to fight

religion. That means that the future patriarch of the MP renounced his faith.

High-ranking workers of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, had let me

in on this secret when I was an officer of Intelligence. They used to practice

a sort of crude joke on the MP hierarchs. Seeing a person in episcopal clothing

at a Kremlin party or at a conference for peace fighters, they would clap him on

the shoulder and inquire loudly: "Tell us, Father, which pocket of your cassock

holds your party membership ID card?" The bishop would smile a bit sheepishly,

but he never objected, since everyone at that gathering was of the same

background.

But they keep quiet for another reason. A well-known former general of the KGB,

Oleg Kalugin, recently told me this. In 1990 he became the deputy of the

Supreme Soviet of the USSR and he was the first person to begin exposing KGB agents in cassocks.

The MP became greatly disturbed. They were not afraid of individual exposes,

but they were petrified that their main secret - that the MP had

intentionally been created by Stalin to be a liaison with the KGB, just as other

Soviet organizations of the State, would be revealed. No one would ever dream

of bringing to light the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has KGB

agents working in it. That's understood. But if you were to admit that the

same thing is in the MP, then where is its sanctity?

Soon after my talk with him, General Kalugin was invited to a private luncheon

with the Patriarch. Patriarch Alexey II told Kalugin the following: "Why are

you exaggerating what happened? Yes, we collaborated with the KGB, even I did.

But it was a struggle for peace, for disarmament! There's nothing wrong with

that!"

To say that a KGB informer is fighting for peace, now that is truly

unbelievable. No one has ever portrayed it that way before. The KGB didn't

have any specialties in that vein - no struggle for peace departments.

These words are propaganda nonsense! On the contrary, we fought for war!

Results of our activity were military conflicts one after the other - in

Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola. This led to a bloating of the

military-industrial complex, of which Intelligence was a part. The country was

unable to sustain the weight of it all, and the USSR collapsed.

Alexey II let me know in no uncertain terms that he does not consider his

collaboration with the KGB something shameful, and has no intentions of

repenting of it. On the contrary, he is proud of it, just as Putin is proud of

his work in the KGB during the Soviet years. The complete absence of repentance

lays down a bridge for future cooperation of the MP and the KGB of today. Why

would a well-bred nobleman Ridiger (Alexey II family name is Ridiger) be so

dedicated to the Soviet authorities? What has bound them so tightly?

In the distant 1996, my journalistic destiny brought me to a Communist meeting

in Novocherkassk. Presidential elections were underway in Russia, and the head

of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, Zyuganov, appeared to be a

serious contender to Boris Yeltsin. He came for support to this Cossack region,

where his predecessors in the 1920s conducted mass executions. Now the area is

known for its pro-Communist sentiment.

An elderly priest, Father Vladimir, from a local cathedral also spoke at this

meeting. He, too, spoke out in favor of Zyuganov, which brought about immense

surprise on the part of foreign journalists. But Father Vladimir firmly

declared:

"In order for us to study in the Seminary, we were recalled from the Front! To

this day we are grateful to the Communist Party for it. Therefore we accepted

our studies in the Seminary as one would accept an assignment at the Front.

That's how we referred to ourselves our whole life - the

non-party-ticketed Communists!"

Which department had the authority to recall people from the Front, especially

during such critical years of the war, when even the sick and feeble were

dragged into the army? It could only have been the NKVD ("People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs", the precursor to the KGB). On whom would she have bestowed this unheard of privilege, which could have saved the person's life? Only on those who had already been proven reliable and trustworthy, the agents.

Stalin created the MP with the hands of the KGB. This department became her mother. The genetic ties with the KGB in the Moscow Patriarchate are just as strong as the ties between ROCOR and the White anti-Communist Movement.

3. THE Lubyanka Consecration

Informing to the KGB within the Moscow Patriarchate has been a serious obstacle against the unification with the MP of the Church Abroad (ROCOR). What if it

continues to this day, the informing? Who can say that it no longer takes

place?

Those who side with unification try to minimize the collaboration and to make it

look like just individual cases, not a global phenomenon within the Church, that

it truly was. They say, for instance, that only some priests became KGB agents

within the overall independent life of the Church. Here in the West this bait

is swallowed easily.

The rector of the Saint John the Baptist Cathedral in Washington, D.C.,

Archpriest Victor Potapov, states the following in the August, 2004 issue of the

magazine, "Prihodskaya Zhizn" ("Parish Life"): "Within the confines of the

Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia hot disputes are occurring regarding

the future path of the Church and regarding the reunion with the Moscow

Patriarchate. In reference with this, I find myself hearing sharp attacks

against individual bishops and certain church activists. Objections sometimes

are simplified to this - it is impossible to unite with the church in

Russia because some of the priests have been corrupted and collaborated with the

KGB and haven't repented of their collaboration. It cannot be possible that the

sins of individual people would throw a shadow on the sanctity of the Church."

Dear Father Victor! It is not so at all. It is not individuals. It is, in

fact, some individuals who escaped recruitment by the KGB! Absolutely all

bishops and the overwhelming majority of priests collaborated with the KGB. You

have to understand that the Church was considered a hostile environment, and it

needed, therefore, to be controlled via agents. Even the mechanism of choosing

a bishop, only pushed through its agents.

Bishops were part of the nomenclature of the CK KPSS (Central Committee of the

Communist Party of the Soviet Union), and therefore each individual had to be

approved by the Ideological Department. And which organization, do you think,

would send documentation to the Central Committee for important staff

appointments? That's right, it was the KGB. The recommendation for the future

bishop would have been prepared by the Fifth Department, which had general

responsibility over the Church, and Intelligence, if he had ever been overseas.

Each of the recommendations ended with the phrase: "Collaborates since such a

year."

It was this phrase that was most important for the Central Committee. This

phrase testified to the fact that the future bishop was not only loyal to the

Soviet authorities, but that he also hangs on a hook: since each agent invariably has compromising materials in his file! This means that this bishop can be trusted not to play any dissident tricks. The astuteness of this observation is evident even today ☐☐ all the bishops sacredly keep their vow of silence.

Ecclesiastical merits of a candidate for bishop did not interest the Ideological Department. To the contrary, they were hostile to them. The less merits, the better. After this, the Central Committee sanctioned the consecration. Just one thing, is it possible to consider it as such?

However, the consecration was only the beginning. Afterward, it was necessary to be registered as a Bishop in the Council on Religious Affairs. This was

granted after a confidential interview with its chairman, Vladimir Kuroyedov, a

KGB Lieutenant General.

He used to like to come dine in the General's dining hall at Lubyanka.

Entering, he would show everyone his pass into the Kremlin dining hall and would

say: "See, I could have been dining with Brezhnev himself! But I prefer to eat

with my guys!"

The Generals replied with a responsive roar and each would move his chair back,

inviting Kuroyedov to his table. Not infrequently his table partner would wind

up being my father, the Deputy Chief of the KGB's Border Troops. In the

evenings he would retell some amazing stories from church life, which at that

time was completely confidential. And all the bishops, blessed by Kuroyedov,

still hold their posts and are even attempting to attach the Church Abroad to

the MP.

To this day, they all remain, as before, a part of the agency network. They

would have been excluded from the network for decoding, had they brought a

public repentance. But there was no such repentance. That means that their

files still remain active in the safes of Lubyanka. Not in its archives, but in

its working files.

The MP hierarchs not only informed against each other in the KGB, but they were

also engaged in espionage. First of all, in Russian emigre communities. Even

metropolitans had no aversion to espionage. For instance, Irinei, the

Metropolitan of Vienna and Austria, in 1969 recruited the American military

intelligence officer, George Trofimoff, who is now serving a life sentence in

the United States.

For approximately thirty years, the KGB residence in Israel was located inside

the Jerusalem Mission of the MP. There were no other Soviet offices in that

country after the break of diplomatic relations in the mid -1960s. On the staff

of the Mission, Intelligence officers worked as priests and laity, whereas

"real" clergy were relegated to The Secretary of the Mission and KGB

Major Dubov fled to the West in the late 1980s, and the MP did everything it

could to avoid publicity.

4. The Church of Special Purpose

A priest in epaulets isn't such a strange sight in the Moscow

Patriarchate. I don't mean that literally, of course. I met one of them

on my first day on the job in the KGB's Intelligence Headquarters in Yasenevo in

1977.

I remember how amazed I was by the long corridors, seemingly kilometers-long,

along which scurried hundreds of men in business suits and ties. Their coat

jackets were perfectly buttoned-shut, their hair was parted neatly in the

middle. Their overall slicked-back appearance was supposed to attest to their

highest level of loyalty. And suddenly an officer with a bushy red beard passed

me in the corridor. What a remarkable appearance, so totally out-of-place for a

Communist-chekist?!

"Don't be alarmed, he has grown a beard at the instruction of his

Intelligence supervisor!" a friend of mine explained laughing. He worked in the

personnel department. "Right now this high-level employee is gaining experience

in the foreign section of the Patriarchate, and soon he'll be leaving for an

overseas assignment. . ."

My friend didn't disclose exactly where the bearded KGB officer was being sent,

in keeping with the KGB's conspiratorial protocol, however, he did tell me a

story about a professor he knew in the Red-Bannered Institute of the KGB, (Today

it is the Academy of Foreign Intelligence) who kept a cassock next to his KGB

Colonel's dress-jacket hanging in his closet. When Patriarch Pimen would travel

overseas, the professor/colonel would don the cassock and join his entourage.

In those years a young supervisor of external Counter-Intelligence, General

Oleg Kalugin, arrived in East Berlin to inspect the KGB residence. On one of

those days, Colonel Ivan Nazarovich Gumeniuk, came up to him and invited him to

stop by at the Russian Cathedral that evening.

"I will be serving there," explained Gumeniuk.

He served in church so professionally, that the parishioners who came up to get

his blessing, were convinced that they were kissing the hand of Father John, and

not the hand of Colonel Gumeniuk.

"Wow, you really came across great! Just like a real priest." General Kalugin

told him enthusiastically the next morning when they met at the residence.

Such "just like the real thing" priests formed the staff of MP churches all

over the world, although in the friendly Arab countries, they practically made

up the entire clergy there. The local Muslim counter-intelligence closed their

eyes to it, since the priests-chekists worked against the West.

These people didn't always have a happy life. The Lord sent them many trials

and tribulations. The children of some began to have faith in God, which was considered unacceptable in the family of a chekist. Others themselves began to believe. Their chekist-colleagues would sniff it out immediately, and that would be the end of their careers. In my book, "KGB in Japan" (Moscow, "Tsentrpoligraph", 2000), I wrote in detail about the KGB's pseudo-priests.

Where are these pseudo-priests now? Have they remained among the clergy of the Moscow Patriarchate?

In the West it is customary to assume that these clerics have evaporated into thin air. But why? Is there even one Russian State enterprise which has purged itself of its KGB agents, as had taken place in some other former socialist countries after the fall of Communism? Unfortunately in Russia this was squashed by the powerful Communist lobby. There definitely were no purges of

the KGB within the MP, today's greatest fan of the Soviet past.

I am aware of only one attempt. It took place in the newspaper "Izvestia"

("News") right after the fall of the August putsch in 1991. The then

editor-in-chief, Igor Golembiovsky, called all the chekists into his office, all

those who were working in his newspaper as journalists, and suggested that they

either resign from the newspaper or from the KGB. He told them that he was no

longer willing to put up with them working in both capacities.

Golembiovsky was never forgiven for his independent thinking, and in Putin's

Russia he is persecuted. Aleksey II, on the other hand, remains at the peak of

his glory. The conclusion one can make, of course, is that no chekists were

ever expelled from his ranks.

The collaboration of the MP with the KGB, unfortunately, is not a thing of the past, as many prefer to believe in the West. With Putin in power, it has even increased. The reason for this is the new social structure, which Putin has managed to create in Russia: the State of Special Services. Internal policies and propaganda is under the FSB, whereas the external is under the SVR. All other departments report to them. Participating in today's Russian political life, it is impossible to avoid contact with Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence. The MP gladly utilizes its Soviet experience within them. For instance, Putin's flirtation with the North Korean dictator, Kim Jong Il, is held in strictest confidence, in order to keep Americans in the dark. The MP, however, is involved, and takes a most active role in it.

In August, 2006 an MP church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was opened in

Pyongyang, although religion is forbidden in North Korea, and belief in God is considered a political crime. But Kim Jong Il made an exception for his Russian friend. The construction was financed mostly by Russian money, but Kim Jong Il also kindly carved out about a million dollars from the budget of his poverty-stricken country for the construction of the church. This gave him the privilege of being considered a "founder of this temple".

"For the founder of this temple, let us pray to the Lord!" the Russian deacon will proclaim at each service daily. To make the North Korean dictator an object of religious worship — this is something previously unattainable by any Western president! The appearance on a Russian church in the capital of North Korea, the first stone of which had been laid in June of 2003, is a sign

of a great personal friendship between Kim Jong Il and Putin, to spite the Americans.

On this occasion, Kim was so kind as to establish a new government office, "The Orthodox Committee of the DPRK" although there have not been any Orthodox believers in this country for more than fifty years.

A delegation of this bogus Committee recently went to Moscow. Within the MP, the delegation only visited one office, besides the Department of External Church Relations. And what might that be? The Department on Collaboration with the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies. It's interesting, what did this delegation need there? It looks like Kim Jong Il considers the MP a militarized organization, meant for resolving special tasks.

The appearance of the Russian church in Pyongyang creates a channel for secret

contacts for both leaders, a channel inaccessible to international control. No

one could possibly know what type of epistles the silent priests in black robes

will begin to bring into Pyongyang.

This channel is especially valuable because all other channels are open to

scrutiny by the Americans. For instance, Bush could ask Putin at one of their

meetings:

"Tell me, my friend Vladimir, are you engaged in some kind of clandestine

hanky-panky with Kim Jong II?"

And Putin would be forced to explain himself, because Intelligence checks

everything. But in questions regarding religious contacts, Putin will have the

right to reply:

"Well that, my dear friend, is none of your business. Faith is

sacrosanct!"

And Bush will have no come-back because his government truly does not get

involved in matters of the Church.

In the Moscow Theological Academy, presently there are students from North

Korea. Where did they come from? If they were truly believers, they would have

been imprisoned. The answer is obvious they are from the Ministry of

State Security. Kim Jong Il is creating an Orthodox Church patterned after

Stalin's church, with the hands of the chekists, the security forces.

But all of the officers of friendly Special Services accredited in Russia, are

under the inconspicuous patronage of the Service of Foreign Intelligence. They

are invited to resorts, to closed meetings, to banquets. It is interesting

whether the North Korean seminarians, leaving the Lavra (monastery) for Moscow,

tell their spiritual advisor something like the following: "Bless us, Father, to

go to the Reception House of the Service of Foreign Intelligence, which is

located in Kolpachniy Lane"?

The MP also "lit up" in the spy scandal which erupted after the murder of the

former Chechen leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev in Qatar by Russian agents. In

February, 2004 they blew up the car Yandarbiyev was entering after he left a

mosque, and were subsequently arrested.

One of the arrested Russian agents happened to be the local resident of the GRU

(Military Intelligence). Since his diplomatic immunity did not allow for him to

be imprisoned, he was released. But two others didn't have diplomat

immunity, and were retained for a long time. They immediately admitted to their

membership in the GRU, attesting to the fact that Russia is involved in

international terrorism. The same terrorism, with which it so passionately

appeals for the world to fight. Putin was furious. He applied tremendous

efforts to get the unfortunate terrorists released, but his efforts were futile.

Then a stream of Russian representatives began to flow into Qatar. Many

officials under various pretexts all tried to break into the jail cell, but the

Qatar authorities would allow no one to see them due to security precautions.

They were so right in doing so since the killers needed to be liquidated. All

that was needed was to smuggle a tiny ampoule under one's finger nail into the

prison cell. Then you would break it open, emitting a colorless substance

inside the cell. Within minutes, the person is gone, and as Comrade Stalin used

to say: "No person, no problem".

In despair, Moscow decided to utilize its most unfailing helper for tricky

assignments □□ the Moscow Patriarchate. Bishop Theofan, of Stavropol and

Vladikavkaz, flew to Qatar, making it look as though the poor suffering officers

imprisoned there, were so deeply religious, that they would rather listen to

sermons of a bishop than to break bread. And not just any bishop, but

specifically Theofan, known for his contact with Intelligence. Prior to this,

he served for many years in the Department of External Church Relations, where

he was an intimate of Metropolitan Cyril, whose code name in KGB files says:

"Mikhailov".

Qatar did not let him in either. It is possible that they knew that the MP is a

cover for espionage. Besides, the faith of the agents had left great doubts,

since inside the exploded car, Yandabiyev's young son had also been injured. It

is unlikely that a believing Christian would decide to kill an innocent child.

Even the socialist-revolutionary terrorists who, in 1905, blew up the car with

Grand Duke Sergey Alexandrovich, who was the Governor-General of Moscow, at

first refused to make the attempt on his life, seeing that he was in the car

with his children. Yet these loser-terrorists had been to Chechnya, where the

GRU tortures and kills people. Since they were sent to Qatar to do the

assignment, it is reasonable to assume that they did everything themselves. The

resulting problems, one can attribute to the punishing hand of God. It would

have been better for Bishop Theofan to visit the thousands of innocent people,

rotting in Russia's prisons.

The Moscow Patriarchate is amazingly merciful toward murderers fulfilling presidential orders. In 2004, Aleksey II awarded Dmitry Pavlichenko, a Colonel of the Belorussian Special Services, with the Medal of the Equal-to-the-Apostles Prince Vladimir. He was the infamous organizer of the "squadrons of death", which liquidated political enemies of President Lukashenko. The MP Exarch (Representative) in Byelorussia, Metropolitan Philaret, personally petitioned for this award. His stated reasoning was that in a garrison under Pavlichenko's control, a church had been built. The occasion was clearly not synchronized with the high status of the Medal he received.

"Novaya Gazeta" ("New Newspaper") published an article about this under the

heading "Church of Special Purpose" in August, 2004. "The awarding of Dmitry

Pavlichenko with the Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Prince Vladimir Medal is beyond

any logical explanation. Because you don't need to travel to Belarus to see

newly- constructed churches scattered on garrison and prison territories. There

are more than enough of those in Russia, as well. But for some reason those,

who construct churches in Russia do not receive medals for it. Could it be

that the Patriarch and his Metropolitan have decided that he, who, with his own

hand sends people to God, is worthy of this high church award?" wrote the

newspaper.

"No one in Europe doubts that Pavlichenko, as well as Sheiman and Sivakov, the

former Secretary of the Security Council and the Minister of Internal Affairs

respectively, were participants in the organization and execution of the

murders." continues the newspaper. That's why the Greek authorities refused to allow Sivakov, who now holds the position of Minister of Sport and was supposed to head the Olympic delegation, entry into Athens. The European Community made a special declaration on this point. And exactly in three days, the Russian Orthodox Church awards Pavlichenko this medal. A coincidence, one could say.

Or is it the Russians' "reply to Chamberlain"?

Svetlana Zavadskaya, the wife of Dmitry Zavadskiy, the ORT (Russian Television)

camera man who was kidnapped on July 7, 2000, said: "It is very sad that the

Russian Orthodox Church awards its second highest Medal in Russia to Dmitry

Pavlichenko, who is known in the civilized world as a person suspected of being

an accomplice in kidnappings and murders of people. As a believer, I am deeply

offended by this. The Orthodox Church in Russia and Belarus is so highly

politicized, that for me, clearly, it would be better to commune with God

directly, without intermediaries."

Yet here, among Russian immigrants, the sentiments are diametrically opposite

those just expressed -- many have dreamed of unifying with the Moscow

Patriarchate. Why?