

# THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MOLDAVIA VISIT THE PATRIARCHATE

On Ash Tuesday evening, 15<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the Minister of Foreign affairs of Moldavia Mr. Andrei Galbur, visited the Patriarchate, escorted by the present Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign affairs and ex Consul of Moldavia in Israel Mr. Anatoli Vangeli, by another associate of his and the present Consul of Moldavia in Israel.

His Excellency the Minister and his escort were warmly received by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos, together with Geronda Secretary-General Most Reverend Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina, the Master of Ceremonies Archimandrite Bartholomew, and Archdeacon Mark.

On this visit, the Minister expressed his happiness on the occasion of his visit in the Holy Land and the Patriarchate, which is not only for political but also for religious purposes.

His Beatitude related especially to the love and support of Jerusalem for the three monotheistic religions and the co-existence of Christians with Muslims since the time "Achtiname" which was written between the memorable Patriarch of Jerusalem Sophronios and Caliph Omar Khattab, and to the work of the Patriarchate in it, and the property that the Patriarchate owned in Moldavia.

On the occasion of this visit, the Minister offered His Beatitude an old Menaion in Slavonic for the Central Library of the Patriarchate, while His Beatitude offered Mr. Andrei Galbur and his associates an icon of the Theotokos and the

Holy Edicule and a medal of the 2000 years of the Patriarchate history.

From Secretariat-General

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