

# **THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF CYPRUS VISITED THE PATRIARCHATE**

At noon on Thursday, March 11th / 24th, March 2022, the General Director of the Ministry of Defense of Cyprus, Mr Andreas Loukas visited the Patriarchate, accompanied by his associates among whom his Deputy Colonel, Mr Ioannis Xanthos

Mr Loukas and his entourage were warmly welcomed by H.H.B. our Father and Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos and Hagiotaphite Fathers.

Joy was expressed from both sides on this visit, which strengthens relations, which have always existed between the Patriarchate and the Cypriot Church and State.

His Beatitude wished the power of God and the protection of the Mother of God for the defence of the island of Cyprus by the military forces.

On this visit, His Beatitude gave an image of the Sacred Edicule and the Theotokos to Mr Lukas, and Mr Lukas offered His Beatitude a silver ship of "Kyrenia", which symbolizes the relationship between Cyprus and Greece and which reminds the illegal Turkish occupation in Cyprus.

Asking His Beatitude's blessings, Mr Lukas left to venerate the Holy Sepulchre.

**From Secretariat-General**