



The Holy Synod of Bishops  
of the Serbian Orthodox Church  
no. 1297/rec. 672  
28 May 2003  
Belgrade

To His Eminence  
Metropolitan of Veles and Povardarje  
and Exarch of Ohrid  
kyr kyr John

Your Eminence,

The Holy Synod of Bishops, at its session held on 21/8 May 2003, with SBno.41/rec.125, reached the following decisions:

1. Having in mind the newly-arisen situation and the decision of the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church, SBno.44/rec.10 from 24 May 1967 and SBno.50 from 15 September 1967, it is decided that the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church should place His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Polog and Kumanovo, kyr Cyril under prohibition from officiating, automatically suspending him from administering the diocese of Polog and Kumanovo.
2. To urge once more the other bishops, members of the Holy Synod of the Macedonian Orthodox Church who still remain in schism, to reassess their pastoral, Christian and human conscience and, in accordance with the Agreement from Nis, enter liturgical and canonical unity with the Serbian Orthodox Church, and thus with all God's Churches in the world, not later than 1 September 2003; otherwise, based on the aforementioned decisions of the Assembly from 1967 and based on the positions of this Assembly, a church-court procedure will be instigated against them.
3. To enlist in the catalogue of candidates for an episcopal rank, and later elect and ordain as bishops only the candidates who fulfil the canonic conditions for the episcopal service and who will be, God willing, members of the Holy Synod of the autonomous Ohrid Archbishopric.
4. To immediately accept the fact that a Holy Synod of the autonomous Ohrid Archbishopric has been constituted, in the spirit of the Assembly's decisions from 1959, and having in

mind the decisions of the Assembly from 1967, and on the basis of the agreement on the methods of establishing a church unity and canonical order, signed in Nis, approved by the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church, which is still, unfortunately, not endorsed by the Holy Synod of the Macedonian Orthodox Church which is in schism, to give blessing and greet the further work of the same Holy Synod of the Ohrid Archbishopric as a local Church with widest autonomy in the canonical borders of the Patriarchate of Pec.  
And

5. To immediately inform the Holy Great Church of Christ in Constantinople, and the other local orthodox churches, of the latest, most recent dialogue with the Holy Synod of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, who, unfortunately, still persists in schism, as well as of the decisions of the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church from this session.

Based on the decision of the Holy Synod of Bishops, under the above number and date, we are pleased to inform Your Eminence of the aforesaid in order to keep you informed.

Your Eminence's brother in Christ,

For the President of the  
Holy Synod of Bishops  
Member, Bishop of Shabac and Valjevo  
+Laurentius