



(Императорское)
Православное Палестинское Общество
Иерусалим и Ближний Восток
(основано в 1882 году)

Russian Orthodox Palestine Society, 25 Dabbagha Street, P.O. Box 991, Jerusalem 91009, Israel
Russische Orthodoxe Gesellschaft im Heiligen Land, Am Perlacher Forst 190, 81545 München, BRD

Совет ИППО в Святой Земле

Council of Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society

Official Statement

January 15, 2009

On December 18, 2008 Mr. N.Worontsov, the Chairman of Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society in the Holy Land participated in the international scientific conference held in Tantur Catholic Institute (Jerusalem), where two statements made by Archbishop Mark of Berlin and Germany were read.

Pinning absurd labels, making insults, spreading ridiculous libel places even panagia-wearing clerics down into the ranks of cheap gutter press. This is for Our Lord Almighty and history to judge and administer their evaluation.

The Council of Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society in the Holy Land is sadly disturbed by this incident and is praying for the spiritual recovery of those who strayed.

In regards with this, The Council of Palestinian Society in the Holy Land makes an official statement as follows:

1/The Council confirms the full powers of Mr. Nikolai Worontsov as the Chairman of Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society in the Holy Land, elected the Chairman in strict accordance with the By-Laws of OPS and blessed by the previous Chairman Bishop A. Grabbe (Vice-Chairman of OPS since 1969 and Chairman of OPS from 1983 to 2004).

2/ In accordance with the By-Laws adopted by OPS in 1882, added to and confirmed in April 1970, Palestine Society is a secular society/ established for “ scientific and charitable purposes”. Assisting the Christian presence in the Holy Land, the Society, however, in no way is a structural part of any orthodox church, neither it is a political organization.

3/ Since the time Mr. Nikolai Worontsov was elected as Chairman, Orthodox Palestine Society has been strictly keeping all its property intact, including Viri Galilei plot of land. In fact, on February 22, 2007 the Society made official statement on this matter on its Internet site www.ippo-jerusalem.info.

4/ Under Mr. Nikolai Worontsov as Chairman, the financials of the Palestine Society were made transparent and are entrusted for the audit to the Government of Bavaria (Germany).

5/ The Council of Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society in the Holy Land regrets and deplors the fact, that Rev. McGarry, the rector of Tantur Institute, yielded to an external provocation and made slandering statements about the Chairman of Orthodox Palestine Society at a recent conference. Mr. Nikolai Worontsov has already received written apologies on the matter from the organizers of the conference – Professors of Catholic University of America and Columbia Law School.

Members of the Council
of Palestine Society
in the Holy Land

N. Avramova, E. Chalatzjan, A. Iwanow M., Dr. A. Kantor, M. Newskaja,
Professor I. Smirnow