<u>Demoted ROC official continues to make extravagant claims for Russia</u> Culture

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&Isquo;One may not betray Russia': Voronenkov's murder is God's intervention, according to ROC priest Vsevolod Chaplin who was demoted for his extreme views

MOSCOW, Mar 24, 2017 (UB0*) - The former deputy head of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate says that Russia should not be betrayed. &Idquo;I think that it was not without the intervention of God in history, regardless of whether it was interference of human hands, guided by the will and the mind, or there was some kind of accident. In this case there was a kind of God's intervention in history, and it is certainly associated with justice and truth, because one may not betray Russia, and it is a challenge not only to one country, but a challenge to God," said Vsevolod Chaplin in an interview with the radio station &Idquo;Govorit Moskva". According to him, Russia is &Idquo;not a normal country." &Idquo;Russia is the foundation of the throne of God, today is the only state that has at least a theoretical chance to build law and society based on God's law. Therefore, to live in Russia and care about the future of Russia is a Christian duty, while the betrayal of Russia is an anti-Christian act, and the Lord, of course, punishes it," the radio interlocutor said. Earlier on his Facebook page Chaplin urged to introduce death penalty for traitors. Former State Duma deputy Denis Voronenkov was shot dead in the center of Kyiv on March 23. A person believed to be a paid assassin opened fire when Voronenkov came out from the Premier Palace hotel together with his security guard.

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