

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**



**INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT**

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32/34 Smolenskaya-Sennaya pl., 119200, Moscow G-200; tel.: (095) 244 4119, fax: 244 4112  
e-mail: dip@mid.ru\_ web-address: www.mid.ru

Unofficial translation from Russian

**Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov Meets with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres**

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On April 7 Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov received in Moscow the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, currently on a visit to the Russian Federation.

During the conversation, the two sides discussed questions of cooperation of Russia with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including assistance to internally displaced persons in the North Caucasus, help from UNHCR with improving the institution of asylum in Russia, and their mutual engagement on other pressing international issues that fall within the Office's competence.

The necessity of stepping up UNHCR's work to overcome the problem of statelessness, including that in Latvia and Estonia, was especially noted.

The sides gave high marks to the level of cooperation between Russia and UNHCR, and exchanged views on the key humanitarian problems of our time.

April 8, 2006