

Withdrawal of U.S. Recognition of FYROM as 'Macedonia'?

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- "Withdrawal of America's recognition of FYROM as 'Macedonia' could be near. It could make the list of one of the first examples of the changes in Washington policy promised by Presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain. Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) are jointly advocating the withdrawal of U.S. recognition of FYROM as 'Macedonia', in a soon-to-be-published newspaper Op-Ed. Menendez is a fellow Democrat and close friend of

Senator Obama and of his Vice Presidential running mate Senator Joe Biden, serving with them on the Senate's Europe Subcommittee. Snowe is a close friend of Senator McCain and one of the few fellow Republican mavericks in the Senate," said leaders of the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes (CEH). These CEH leaders stressed that, "Obama's and McCain's focus on improving America's image abroad will require closer U.S. adherence to the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, OECD and international law. The spir-

it of these international conventions opposes a country seeking a name that describes neighboring territory that its citizens want to annex." "All sides of the issue recognize that 'Macedonia' describes an ancient kingdom, the majority of which is in northern Greece, and they are aware of numerous recent examples of FYROM's citizens' desire to annex this territory. As well, the opinion of Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America, Demetrios, who was born and raised in the Macedonian region of Greece, is

highly regarded by both nominees. They both invited him to participate in their recent national conventions." "Recognition of FYROM as 'Macedonia' was an interim measure, as explained in early November of 2004 by Condoleezza Rice to Archbishop Demetrios and some of our members. She said that the U.S. advocated a final name negotiated by the UN and acceptable to Greece. Some Congressional Republicans and senior UN and US officials would like Rice to reverse that recognition decision before leaving office.

Mediterranean meltdown

From today's New York Times:



"...an epidemic of obesity and related maladies." "...two-thirds of children are now overweight and the health effects are mounting"

A United Nations report saying region's diet had "decayed into a moribund state."

'In Greece, three-quarters of the adult population is overweight or obese, the worst rate in Europe "by far," according to the United Nations.'

"In Greece, average daily cholesterol consumption has risen to 400 milligrams from 190 in 1963."

At this point, you can pretty much throw out any notion that Greeks adhere to the fabled Mediterranean diet. Greeks are fat and getting fatter. The social and economic impact will be immense.

Greece hosts exhibition of reclaimed ancient loot

ATHENS, Greece - The presidents of Greece and Italy on Wednesday opened an exhibition of more than 80 illegally excavated ancient treasures returned from U.S. and European museums and private collections.

Both antiquities-rich countries have suffered badly from looters and have joined forces to fight the scourge.

"Our two peoples have experienced ... the sense of injustice caused by that criminal activity," Greek Culture Minister Michalis Liapis said. "Our history has been turned into a commodity."

Italian President Giorgio Napolitano and his Greek counterpart Karolos Papoulias inaugurated the exhibition, which runs until Dec. 31.

The core of the show was displayed earlier this year in Rome. Exhibits include ornately painted clay vases from the 6th to the 4th centuries B.C., marble statues, and frescoes from Pompeii.



Most came from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum and Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. In all cases, Greek and Italian authorities were able to prove the works had been looted and illegally exported.

The Athens venue is the still-unfinished New Acropolis Museum, where Greece hopes one day to display the Elgin Marbles beside its own collection of sculpture from the 2,500-year-old Parthenon temple.

The British Museum has rebuffed repeated Greek requests for the return of the works, removed by Scottish diplomat Lord Elgin 200 years ago when Greece was an unwilling subject of the Ottoman Empire.

The London museum argues that it legally acquired the sculptures, which are accessible free of charge to visitors from all over the world.

But Greece's campaign received a moral boost Tuesday, when Napolitano handed over a small fragment of the Parthenon frieze kept for two centuries in a museum in Palermo, Sicily.

The marble piece, the foot and lower leg from a relief sculpture of the goddess Artemis, will remain in Athens as a permanent loan. Next month, Italian authorities plan to hand over two more small fragments of the Parthenon sculptures from the collections of the Vatican Museums.

A museum in Heidelberg, Germany, also returned a small piece of the frieze two years ago. Other fragments are kept in museums in France, Germany, Austria and Denmark.

On Wednesday, Napolitano and Papoulias fitted the 14-by-13-inch (35-by-34-centimeter) Palermo piece into position among matching fragments from the Greek museum's collections.

"May this be the forerunner in healing the wounds the sacred site suffered from the removal of the Parthenon Marbles," Papoulias said.

The exhibition runs until Dec. 31. The New Acropolis Museum is expected to open its permanent exhibitions to the public by next March — at least six months behind schedule. Greek officials have not explained the delay. -

Trial on Alex's Disappearance Opens

The trial of the five minors who are accused of the disappearance of Alex, an 11-year-old boy from the northern Greek city of Veria, commences today. Expected to last for weeks, the trial will be held behind closed doors. About a hundred witnesses have been called on to give deposition. Under the judgement of the Thessaloniki Appellate Council, the five minors, aged 14 and 15, have been charged with premeditated homicide and offence of a dead body.



started.

When it gets dark, drivers will still have to switch on their regular driving lights manually. When this occurs, the daytime lights will go out.

The rules will only apply to new models of cars and trucks which are introduced from 2011, rather than all new cars. Regarding big trucks and busses 18 months later, that is as of August 2012.

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ARVANITAKI LIVE IN EUROPEAN CITIES

Eleftheria Arvanitaki, one of the most respected and successful figures of Greek music will perform live in several European cities during the next two weeks.

Eleftheria Arvanitaki embodies in her evocative singing the entire Greek heritage, ranging from soulful Rembetika, and island folk songs to modern classics and popular songs set to the words of contemporary lyricists. In August 2004, she participated in the closing ceremony of the Athens Olympics, while she has performed in several WOMAD and other festivals. With a richly expressive voice of extraordinary clarity and depth and a powerful stage presence, combining in her repertoire traditional and contemporary Greek music, promises to give a great concerts in Helsinki, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Brussels, and London.



EU to Introduce Daytime Lights for Cars as 2011



Automobile makers will be required to equip new car models in the European Union with special daytime lights from 2011 in a bid to cut down on road accidents, the European Commission announced Wednesday

The special lamps are automatically switched on when the car engine is