

NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS GREEK AMERICAN NEWSPAPER



VOL. 29

NO. 325

CHICAGO, IL.

MARCH, 2012

Greece's Paradox; Israel: Deus ex machina

By Charles J. Mouratides Exec. Director, CHI www.chicircle.org

Summary

In the past 200 years, Hellas has been ambivalent in its geopolitical orientation. It has bounced between West and East, and, as a byproduct of this uncertainty, has also flirted occasionally with the Third World block. Israel's discovery of natural gas and oil has elevated the Eastern Mediterranean basin to the most important geostrategic priority for Greece and Cyprus. Exploration, drilling and distribution of energy resources, and the need to safeguard them, require development of special strategic relationships with Israel and the U.S. Western Europe is undependable, as history and the recent economic crisis have again demonstrated. This leads conceptually to the notion of 'Geopolitical West' which encompasses Israel, and also to the end of Greece's historic ambivalence.



Greece's Janus-faced paradox gives way to Eastern Mediterranean 'Geopolitical West,' including Is-

rael.

It was viewed primarily as Western Europe's huge summer resort area during the post-war period of the 20th century.

The Germans, the Brits, the French, the Swedes, and lately the Russians, have all brought much needed tourist cash. This will continue.

But Eastern Mediterranean, with its natural gas and hydrocarbons is re-directing Greece and Cyprus to embrace a new priority both in politico-economic and strategic actions. Israel's discovery of huge gas deposits in the Levant Basin, and its readiness to sign trade and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) agreements, demonstrated to Hellenes that it is time to explore the Eastern Mediterranean whose riches have been suspected for several decades.

Suddenly, at the dawn of the 21st century, Eastern Mediterranean's anticipated riches are becoming the political and strategic focus of Europe despite EU's squeezing of Greece during the debt crisis. Since the debts themselves are nothing new, it is possible the merciless squeezing is also inspired by the anticipated energy supplies.

European powers are dependent on gas and oil imported from Russia, the largest exporter of such energy in the world. Germany and the Netherlands are Russia's best customers according to the U.S. Energy Department. Europe has awakened to the possibility that Russia's near monopoly can be diminished through the new gas and oil source, the Eastern Mediterranean, an area within the EU. Israel and two EU members, Cyprus and Greece, may become major suppliers and distributors.

For Europe and the U.S., this alternative to Russian supplies elevates the strategic value of Eastern Mediterranean basin. It also enlarges the notion of "West" to include Israel not only culturally, but geographically, too, because Israel adopts the basin as a strategic asset essential to its existence. The basin's energy resources are not only a trade asset, but for the first time since its founding as a state, Israel's energy dependency is liberated from enemies sworn to its destruction.

Any threat to Israel's legitimate rights to the

energy supply sources challenges its independence and constitutes a casus belli. Turkey got the message when it attempted to put an obstacle in the drilling operation launched in partnership between Israel and Cyprus. The powers, including the U.S., EU, and Russia, openly supported the exploration and drilling rights of Israel and Cyprus.

The Eastern Mediterranean waters no longer separate, but bind together the shores of Israel with Greece and Cyprus at the point of the boundaries of their Exclusive Economic Zones. The "Geopolitical West" is a reality on the ground.

For Hellenes, the four posits of this new Geopolitical West doctrine are:

1. In the past two centuries, Greek strategy was a Janus-Faced paradox, torn between West and East in strategy and in foreign and domestic politics. In recent decades, Greece also flirted with the Third World camp;

2. The "Geopolitical West" strategy has been developing de facto in the past two years. The concept embraces Israel which is geographically in the Middle East. It recognizes the Eastern Mediterranean basin as the geopolitical priority for Greece and Cyprus. Israel, for the first time in its history, is shaking off its dependence on sworn enemies for natural gas and oil. It also opens new trade horizons with Europe and Asia;

3. For Greece and Cyprus, the new priority requires the capability to deal with military threats from their major adversary in the Eastern Mediterranean, Turkey, and potentially active partners of Turkey.

4. For their own security, Greece and Cyprus must develop strong ties with Israel and also the U.S. which is the Western power that can guarantee the unimpeded exploration and flow of natural gas and oil.

For Greece, the new priority signals the end of a peculiar political/cultural/economic period that is almost 200 years old. It was characterized by the ambiguous political posturing begun by Hellenes before and after the Greek War of Independence (1821-1829) and emphasized in domestic politics aggressively in the past 70 years.

Background of Janus-Faced paradox

The past was a Janus-Faced paradox. Janus, the Roman god, had one head with two back-to-back faces. It was the god of opposites, transitions, beginnings and endings. Greece, too, has vacillated wearing two faces – each looking simultaneously in the opposite direction. This Greek paradox was not an attempt to deceive. It demonstrated a lack of consistent strategic planning.

One side of Greek Janus focuses in the direction of the country's multi-millennial cultural orientation. This orientation is in synch with Greece's tradition as a foundation of Western Civilization.

As philosophers and artists affirmed during the 15th century Renaissance, it was classical civilization that paved Europe's way out of the 1,000-year-long Dark Ages.

Embraced even today

This deeply felt relationship continues undisputed. As late as February, 2012, it was heralded in cities all over Western Europe by pro-Greece demonstrators. The mayor of a

small Italian town, near Salerno, expressed a conviction frequently repeated in France, Germany and Spain today: "Greece gave us philosophy and science, poetry and literature, theater and music. Greece gave us civilization, and Italy and Europe are not its brothers, but its children."

The opposite face of Greece targeted a sub-continent of East European countries in the Eastern Orthodox tradition shared with Russia. This was the camp that cheered Greek struggles for liberation after 400 years of Ottoman rule.

It was Russia that supported the Greek Diaspora in Odessa which inspired and birthed the War of Independence against the Ottoman Turks. The battles of this war were often led by Greek officers of the Czar. And it was his army and diplomats who also supported uprisings in other Eastern Orthodox countries enslaved by the Ottomans, among them Montenegro, Moldavia and Wallachia.

This dichotomy has been the foundation of Greek political ambivalence. It is an ambivalence fueled by the Bismarkian Realpolitik of the British and French whose armies backed the Ottomans several times in the 19th and early 20th centuries, both against Greece and Russia. The Germans were not far behind, having served Kemal Ataturk and the Young Turks, including their role as genocide advisors against Armenians and Greeks in the early 1900s.

The byproduct of this ambivalence was Greece's second-tier strategy, the aimless flirting with Third World countries, many of them Muslim, especially in the late 1970s through the 1990s. Third World politics is best recognized by what it rejects in Western World politics, not by what it is able to accomplish for its followers.

Finally, Greece's ambivalence can be resolved in a truly classical drama tradition.

Israel: Deus ex machina

Fast forward to the dawn of the 21st century.

West Europe's leaders have grown beleaguered. The object of their resentment, Russia, and its pipelines originating in Western Siberia and the "stan" regions, are today West Europe's main suppliers of oil and natural gas. Russia will soon tap into its Eastern Siberia abundant fields to supply China and the rest of Asia.

Turkey, the "ally" whom Europe refuses to bring into the European Union – "European Common Market" would be a more accurate term – is plotting how to make the EU pay for expensive transcontinental pipelines supplying them energy from Asian regions also controlled by Russia or Iran.

Finally, "O Apo Michanis Theos" descends upon Greece. That's what it is called in Greek drama where it was lowered on stage to change the play outcome dramatically. The Romans called it Deus ex Machina. I guess, the Israelis would call it Manna from Heaven. It is the unexpected event or entity from above that provides resolution to an unsolvable situation.

In 2009, the Israelis again strike large deposits of natural gas deep in the Eastern Mediterranean – Leviathan field is being drilled eventually to about 21,000 feet. Soon afterwards, the Israelis invite Hellenes in Greece and Cyprus to join them in drilling. The future of Greece is in this new priority, the Eastern Mediterranean basin, which requires development of two parallel tracks:

Implementing 'Geopolitical West' concept

One track in this "Geopolitical West" priority

is Israel which is Eastern Mediterranean basin's super power. It is Western in culture, democratic and highly educated. It is a nuclear power. Even though its population barely reaches 7.5 million, it has one of the world's most advanced weapons industries. It also has an economy that is growing faster than that of Western Europe.

Greece's still developing relationship with Israel provides Greece with defense weapons and options; trade opportunities; business and development models; technological know-how, and Eastern Mediterranean energy partnership options in the Aegean sea.

On the other hand, it provides Israel energy production partnerships with new locations in the Mediterranean, even outside its own Exclusive Economic Zone; anti-terrorism/security support; military support in air- and sea-space; and much needed active friends in a hostile environment, as shown in the "flotilla" incident challenging Israel's boycott of Gaza. The benefits package for the two countries is wrapped in tourism and common-culture ties.

Israel has already recognized its broader Eastern Mediterranean potential: It is pursuing a China option. As reported, Israel has discussed the sale of gas and oil to China through the pipeline that runs from the Mediterranean port of Ashkelon to Eilat in the Red Sea. And of course, just as Israeli gas production can be channeled to Western Europe through pipelines crossing Greece, so can Greek production be channeled to Asia through pipelines crossing Israel.

The second track in the "Geopolitical West" concept lies in the traditional Western world, but not so much on Europe, even though Greece and Cyprus are EU members. This priority's future is tied to the U.S. and America's strategies seeking to provide a strong security and anti-terrorism umbrella to Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Greece must cross the line it has so far chosen to ignore: It must offer to the U.S. exclusive major security and anti-terrorism options in the Aegean and the Ionian seas, and in the Balkans.

It must support America in U.N. politics and in European-Balkan-Eurasian pursuits. Greek political parties have got to end the political theater of the absurd, the staged anti-Americanism cloaked in pro-democracy slogans in the streets of Athens.

There is no longer time for ambivalence or aimless flirting with the other side. Clarity of vision, the ability to comprehend U.S. interests and strategic goals, has been particularly critical since 9/11.

Turkey often works against important American interests; it has been descending into Neo-Ottoman darkness; it is boasting a pretentious gun-boat diplomacy in the Eastern Mediterranean, and is continuing to play the two ends against the middle, as in last century's wars. In the Arab Mediterranean, political uncertainty reigns supreme.

From a Greek perspective, Germany, historically an undependable ally, has wrecked the already weak structure and vision of a European Union. Germany is unwilling to provide

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NATIONAL HELLENIC FREE PRESS

PUBLISHER
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On February 27th and 28th, students at Koraes Elementary School, affiliated with SS Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, learned all about how to keep their teeth happy and healthy. Dr. Lena Halikias and Mrs. Dianne Savide visited the classrooms and demonstrated the proper way to brush and floss. The students enjoyed speaking with Dr. Halikias and Mrs. Savide about all the healthy ways to keep a happy smile. In the picture Dr. Halikias with the Koraes Elementary Second Grade Class.

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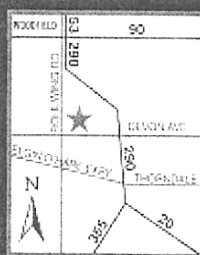
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Greece's Paradox; Israel: Deus ex machina

(Continued from p. 1)

its partners with aid, the kind it so generously received from America after it lost the world war it created and almost destroyed Europe.

But Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville's America, still true, with its unique sense of exceptionalism, is the only power historically willing to give a second chance to a recovering weak country — even to its enemies.

It is with this realization — understanding America's pragmatism as much as its ideological foundations and pursuits — that Greece can appeal to America in order to lift itself from its present quicksand. Culturally in the same wagon, now Greece must pursue the opportunity to travel down the American track. ###
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Germany’s chance to show mercy

What tax the rich is all about

By Robert Kuttner — Boston Globe Newspaper

The other day, Jörg Krämer, chief economist for Commerzbank in Frankfurt, said of the Greeks, “If you live beyond your means, then you can repair your balance sheet only if your consumption goes down.” This sentiment has become a German mantra. Germany’s price for the latest bailout deal has been an insistence on an ever-more intense and self-defeating Greek austerity program, which has now pushed Greece to the brink of a social catastrophe. But the Germans might take a moment and reflect on their own history.

In the aftermath of World War II, the Allies, remembering the disastrous consequences of German reparations after the first World War, did not insist on their pound of flesh. The entire Nazi public debt, amounting to over 600 percent of German GDP, was written off.

The pre-existing unpaid debt from the Weimar period was written down to a fraction of its original cost. Claims on old debt were strictly segregated from German reconstruction funds. The German Federal Republic finally paid off the last bit only in 2010.

Germany surely lived well beyond its means during the Nazi era, plundering the rest of Europe as well. The allies would have been within their rights to demand that Germany pay for its sins by reducing its consumption, but this time wiser heads prevailed. The Americans not only agreed to write off old debts, but gave the Germans billions of dollars in Marshall Aid.

The German Federal Republic itself, after 1989, did not condemn the former East Germany to austerity as a remedy for its fictitious communist economy. Instead, Chancellor Helmut Kohl allowed the Ossies to exchange their nearly worthless ostmarks for deutsche marks at the inflated rate of 1 to 1, and then poured the equivalent of more than a trillion euros into the reconstruction of the eastern economy.

If the Allies, and later the government of Germany itself, had practiced what the Germans are now preaching, Germany today would be a much poorer country.

One recalls Edmund Burke’s sage 1775 oration addressed to George III on the perversity of the British government’s harsh policy towards its restive North American colonies. Burke averred, “The question with me is not whether you have a right to render

your people miserable, but whether it is not your interest to make them happy.”

Germany gains little and Europe stands to lose much by condemning the Greeks to misery as punishment for past profligacy. The Germans are also playing with fire. Greece is a nation that had a military dictatorship as recently as the 1974. No democracy can sustain this kind of economic punishment. What, then, to do?

Normally, a country that lost the confidence of its foreign lenders would devalue, disguising the decline in living standards and at the same time making its exports more competitive. But Greece’s membership in the euro zone precludes that. It is also true that Greek public administration and tax collection are a mess.

So how to emulate the spirit of the Allies’ macroeconomic mercy toward the Germans after 1945 and the West German farsighted generosity toward their Ossie cousins after 1989?

In June, the Greek Parliament voted for an austerity program of 28 billion euros in budget cuts and tax increases over five years. Because dwindling GDP produces lower revenues, the latest agreement requires some 6 billion more. These are devastating sums for Greece, but small in the context of the EU’s entire GDP, of which Greece is just 2 percent.

Why not couple Greek budget and tax reform with a large infusion of funds for economic modernization and public improvements in the spirit of the Marshall Plan?

Young Greeks, instead of looking at 40 percent unemployment, could gain productive jobs. The entire Greek economy would gain a big macroeconomic boost and a path to greater competitiveness.

Most importantly, the EU would gain the moral authority to work with Greeks on politically awkward reforms. It’s one thing to grudgingly tolerate technocrats who are bleeding you dry in order to satisfy bankers, and quite another to work with development specialists who come to Greece bearing gifts.

Call it the Merkel plan, so that German Chancellor Angela Merkel might be remembered not as the jackbooted German who destroyed Greece but as the wise leader who tempered austerity with sensible mercy.

This — my friends is what tax the rich is all about. I didn’t do the math in the story, but I believe it makes a point. — The Tax System Explained in Beer.

Suppose that every day, ten men go out for beer and the bill for all ten comes to \$100. If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this. The first four men (the poorest) would pay nothing. The fifth would pay \$1. The sixth would pay \$3. The seventh would pay \$7. The eighth would pay \$12. The ninth would pay \$18. The tenth man (the richest) would pay \$59. So, that’s what they decided to do.

The ten men drank in the bar every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement, until one day, the owner threw them a curve ball. Since you are all such good customers, he said, I’m going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by \$20.

Drinks for the ten men would now cost just \$80. The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes. So the first four men were unaffected. They would still drink for free. But what about the other six men? How could they divide the \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his fair share? They realized that \$20 divided by six is \$3.33. But if they subtracted that from everybody’s share, then the fifth man and the sixth man would each end up being paid to drink his beer. So, the bar owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man’s bill by a higher percentage the poorer he was, to follow the principle of the tax system they had been using, and he proceeded to work out the amounts he suggested that each should now pay.

And so the fifth man, like the first four, now paid nothing (100% saving). The sixth now

paid \$2 instead of \$3 (33% saving). The seventh now paid \$5 instead of \$7 (28% saving). The eighth now paid \$9 instead of \$12 (25% saving). The ninth now paid \$14 instead of \$18 (22% saving). The tenth now paid \$49 instead of \$59 (16% saving). Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to drink for free.

But, once outside the bar, the men began to compare their savings. I only got a dollar out of the \$20 saving, declared the sixth man. He pointed to the tenth man, but he got \$10. Yeah, that’s right, exclaimed the fifth man. I only saved a dollar too. It’s unfair that he got ten times more benefit than me! That’s true, shouted the seventh man. Why should he get \$10 back, when I got only \$2? The wealthy get all the breaks. Wait a minute, yelled the first four men in unison, we didn’t get anything at all. This new tax system exploits the poor! The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up. The next night the tenth man didn’t show up for drinks so the nine sat down and had their beers without him.

But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered something important. They didn’t have enough money between all of them for even half of the bill! And that, boys and girls, journalists and government ministers, is how our tax system works. The people who already pay the highest taxes will naturally get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up anymore. In fact, they might start drinking overseas, where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.



The strong start by Olympiakos to its crucial game with Galatasaray in Piraeus gave the Reds an 88-81 victory that saw them through to the quarter-finals of the Euroleague on Thursday. The Greeks needed a win by at least two points on the night to advance and did it in style, to set up a playoff clash with Siena.



Dr. Peter J. Panton, a graduate of the Brown University School of Medicine, is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and former president of the Chicago Ophthalmological Society.

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Dr. Peter Panton Discusses ALL LASER LASIK

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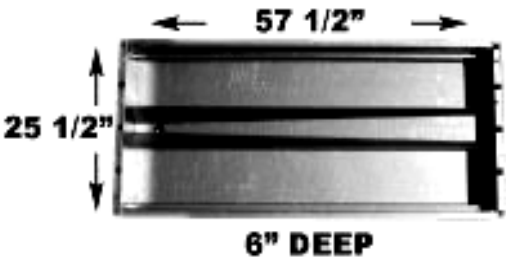
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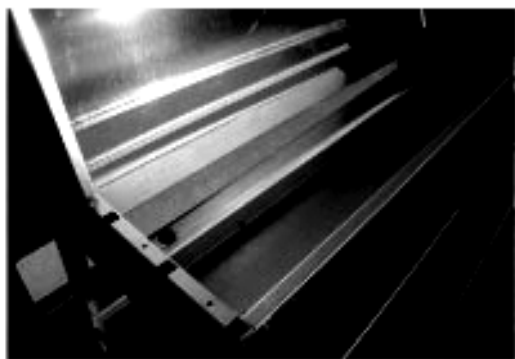
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Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

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Presenter: Sarah Elisabet Oftedal,
House Mother of the Martha and Mary Maternity House in Escondido, CA

March 24, 2012

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465

Spiritual Retreat Schedule:

9:00 am: Orthros (Matins)

10:00 am: Continental Lenten
Breakfast & Registration

10:30 am-12:00 pm: First Session
(Her journey to Orthodoxy)

12:00-1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00-2:30 pm: Second Session
(Her journey to the
Martha & Mary House)

Registration:

\$15 by March 17

**\$20 After March 18
or on-site registration**

Sara Elisabet Oftedal is Co-Founder and House-Mother/ Director of Martha and Mary House, an Orthodox Christian Maternity Home for pregnant women in crisis who choose life and open adoption for their unborn child.

Sara Elisabet is an accomplished journalist, correspondent, author and sculptress. She gave birth to her first living child in 1956 in a Salvation Army Maternity Home after aborting an infant while a rebellious teen. Although she later married and went on to have three more children, she lived with a secret pain in her heart, a black hole caused by aborting a child and existing as an atheist. Through the years, Sara's work as a writer took her to several denominations.

Searching for meaning, she made a desperate leap of faith across the abyss of the absurd and promised God that she would live the rest of her life as if He were there. In her journey, Sara became an Evangelical, a Lutheran, an Episcopalian, an Anglican and finally an Orthodox Christian. In January 1995, Sara Elisabet was chrismated at Saint John of Damascus Orthodox Church (OCA) in Poway, California where she is currently a member.

With the blessing of Bishop Benjamin of the Diocese of the West, Sara is currently working on a book titled "Coming Full Circle, - From The House of Tomorrow to Martha and Mary House." It will include the reprint of her first book, and the circumstances leading to the founding of Martha and Mary House.

Come hear Sara's inspiring and moving spiritual journey.

For More Information

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NEWS FROM GREECE

IMF scales back aid to Greece

The International Monetary Fund intends to contribute 18 billion euros in fresh funds to the second aid package for Greece, scaling back IMF help for the nation that triggered Europe's debt crisis.

The planned IMF contribution disclosed late on Friday represents 14 percent of the 130 billion-euro second rescue of Greece being arranged with the euro area. The IMF accounted for 27 percent -- or 30 billion euros -- of Greece's initial 110 billion-euro bailout in May 2010.

"The IMF is trying to manage a difficult balance between staying involved in the rescue package for Greece while limiting the risk to its own funds," Eswar Prasad, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington and a former IMF official, said in an e-mail. The IMF is «increasing its overall exposure to Greece. This poses both financial and political risks for the fund.»

Two years after German Chancellor Angela Merkel insisted that the IMF play a role in aiding Greece and any other distressed euro government, the Washington-based lender has joined the US, Canada and other nations in pressing Europe itself to do more to stem the debt crisis.

Germany, the biggest economy in Europe, has repeatedly stalled over bolstering the euro area's bailout firepower amid skepticism in the country about the merits of aiding euro nations that flouted European budget-discipline rules.

The smaller IMF role in the latest Greek bailout leaves 112 billion euros to be provided by the euro area's rescue fund, the European Financial Stability Facility, which sells debt to finance emergency aid. The EFSF has a capacity of 440 billion euros.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said on Friday that she plans to recommend 28 billion euros in financial aid for Greece to support its «ambitious economic program over the next four years.»

The 28 billion euros that Lagarde is proposing includes 9.7 billion euros that remained from the previous support package, the IMF confirmed in an e-mailed statement on Friday. The entire 28 billion euros will need to be approved by the IMF executive board.

"Restoring competitiveness and a sustainable fiscal position will require Greece to undertake sustained and deep structural reforms over a

prolonged period," Lagarde said in a statement in Washington. «The scale and length of the fund's support is a reflection of our determination to remain engaged.»

On Friday Greece pushed through the biggest sovereign restructuring in history after getting private investors to forgive more than 100 billion euros of debt, opening the way for the second bailout.

Euro-region finance ministers agreed that, with the swap, Greece had met the terms for the 130 billion-euro rescue package arranged with the IMF. Ministers freed up 35.5 billion euros in payments and interest for bondholders, with a decision on the balance of the bailout funds to be made at a meeting on Monday in Brussels.

Greece's debt swap «exceeded expectations» and gives the country a «realistic chance» to pare down its debt and recover, Finnish Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen said in an interview today on state-owned broadcaster YLE TV1.

The euro area's 80 billion-euro share of the first Greek rescue of 110 billion euros came from national governments. The Luxembourg-based EFSF was not involved in that package.

The EFSF is committed to providing a total of almost 44 billion euros to

Moody's declares Greece to be in default

Moody's declared Greece in default on its debt Friday after Athens carved out a deal with private creditors for a bond exchange that will write off 107 billion euros (\$140 billion) of its debt.

Moody's pointed out that even as 85.8 percent of the holders of Greek-law bonds had signed onto the deal, the exercise of collective action clauses that Athens is applying to its bonds will force the remaining bondholders to participate.

Overall the cost to bondholders, based on the net present value of the debt, will be at least 70 percent of the investment, Moody's said.

"According to Moody's definitions, this exchange represents a 'distressed exchange,' and therefore a debt default," the US-based rating firm said.

For one, «The exchange amounts to a diminished financial obligation relative to the original obligation."

Secondly, it «has the effect of allowing Greece to avoid payment default in the future."

Ahead of the debt deal, Moody's had already slashed Greece's credit grade to its lowest level, «C,» and so there was no impact on the rating.

Moody's said it will revisit the rating to see how the debt writedown, and the second eurozone bailout package, would affect its finances.

However, it added, at the beginning of March «Moody's had said that the risk of a default, even after the debt exchange has been completed, remains high."

Gov't spokesman confirms election plan

Greece will hold a parliamentary election on April 29 at the earliest and may not hold the vote until May, a government spokesman said late on Friday, giving Prime Minister Lucas Papademos time to complete a debt deal to avert default.

Greece's private-sector creditors agreed to accept steep cuts in the value of their bond holdings, opening the way for a 130-billion-euro bailout by the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

Once a deal has also been agreed on the settlement of a smaller tranche of Greek bonds regulated under international law on April 12, the government's work will be finished, spokesman Pantelis Kapsis told Skai television.

He said elections could take place as early as April 29 but may come on one of the following Sundays.

"I imagine it will be somewhere then," Kapsis said.

There has been widespread media speculation that the elections, delayed from February, would be held in early May but officials have been wary about commenting openly about dates.

Papademos's technocratic coalition government, formed in November and including both the Socialist PASOK and conservative New Democracy parties, had a narrow mandate to complete bailout and debt cut talks and then hold elections as soon as possible.

Elections had been set for mid-February, mainly under pressure from New Democracy, which is leading in opinion polls.

The conservatives agreed to push back the date after it became clear that Papademos needed more time to complete negotiations on the EU/IMF bailout, Greece's second since 2010.



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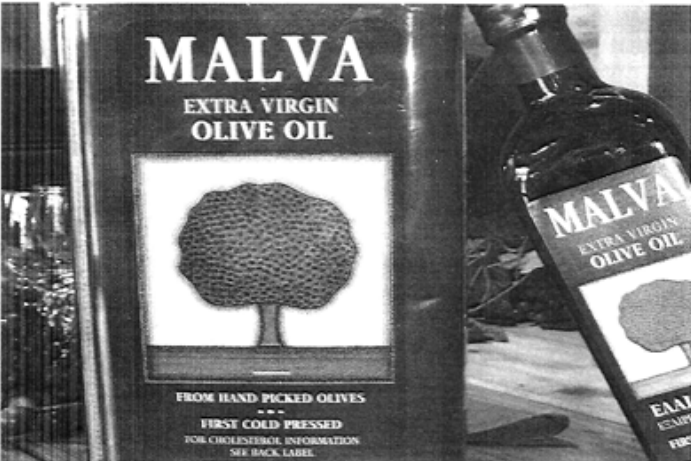
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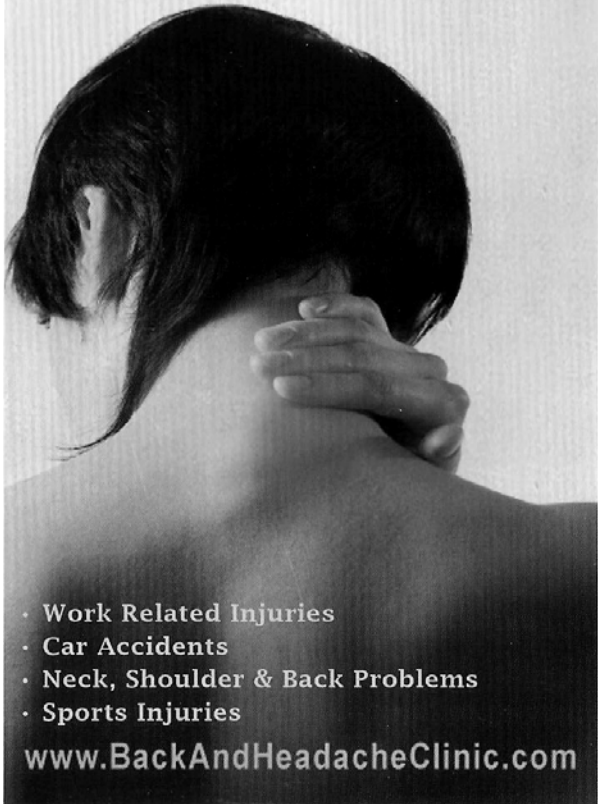
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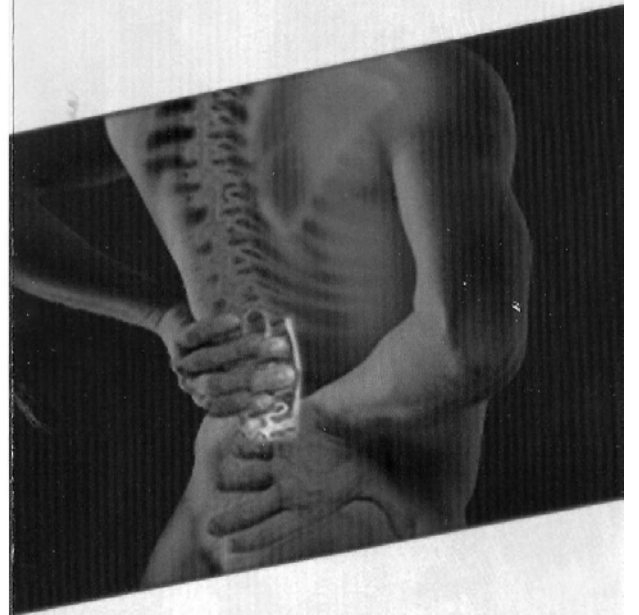
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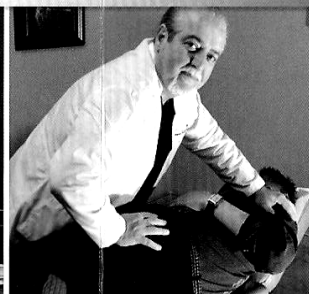
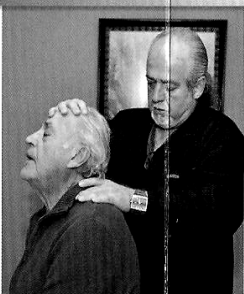
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