

Int. Her. Cr.  
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## ***Greek Farmers Lift Blockades For Holidays***

*Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches*

**ATHENS** — Militant farmers on Sunday lifted the road and rail blockades that have crippled Greece and let land transport move freely for the first time in 24 days.

It was a major victory for the Socialist prime minister, Costas Simitis, who had refused to yield to the farmers' demands and said his government had no more money to give.

The farmers' barricades, made up of thousands of tractors parked on highways and railroads, caused transport chaos and inflicted damage to the economy estimated at more than \$100 million.

The ragtag army of 10,000 tractors, which had cut off whole regions of Greece, vanished within hours of the decision by the main farmers' committee in the central Thessaly region to call off the protest. The farmers' coordinating committee said it would meet again after the Christmas holiday to review the action and to decide whether to renew the roadblocks.

The farmers' protest had been crumbling in many regions in recent days.

The final collapse came when the farmers in Thessaly who began the protests and where the most militant had held out to the last, voted Sunday to lift their barricades.

For Mr. Simitis, who has imposed harsh economic reforms since his election in September, it was the latest in a series of recent victories over angry workers and farmers.

*(Reuters, AFP)*