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Rebel of Left seeks Greek power role

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

A LEFT-WING radical who left the Greek ruling Socialist Party (Pasok) last year because he said it was not socialist any more is preparing to play power-broker if the party squeaks through to re-election tomorrow.

Although recent polls indicate no more than 6 per cent of voters supporting the ten-month-old Democratic Socialist Movement (DHKKI) headed by Dimitris Tsovolas, the splinter party is a bigger threat to the Government than the conservative opposition, New Democracy.

Despite surging ahead last week, Miltiades Evert, the New Democracy leader, appeared to lose ground with what critics call inept posturing, such as insisting on overturning a multiparty agreement on media coverage of the campaign. But on the eve of the election, it was still too close to call. A post-poll deal with Mr Tsovolas could swing Greece to the left,

politically and economically. A youthful 54, the son of a poor mountain family, he sees his chance for revenge on the champagne socialism of the kind typified by the Papandreu family and hangers-on.

The wooden speaking style and aloofness of Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, have done much to erode his support. However, he has resisted the temptation to take a swaggering patriotic line, leaving that to the table-thumping Mr Evert, nicknamed "Bulldozer" by his supporters.

Whoever wins tomorrow faces formidable political problems. Neither large party is expected to receive a majority big enough to rule unhindered. If re-elected, Mr Simitis would almost certainly have to co-operate with Mr Tsovolas, who is demanding "radical economic changes". That would mean a direct threat to Greece's hard-won adherence to the Maastricht treaty.

HOW THE PARTIES LINE UP

Greece's 8.9 million voters elect a 300-member unicameral legislature under a reinforced proportional system. The normal government term is four years. The main parties are:

Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) -- leader, Costas Simitis

New Democracy (conservative free-market) -- Miltiades Evert

Democratic Social Movement (DHKKI) -- Dimitris Tsovolas

Politiki Anixi (nationalist) -- Antonis Samaras

Communist Party of Greece (KKE) -- Aleka Papatrifa

Synaspismos (Coalition of the Left) -- Nikos Konstantopoulos

Other parties: Party of Greek Hunters; Party of Responsible Citizens; National Royal Movement; Chrysi Avghi (Golden Dawn; far right).

Ο αντάρτης της Αριστεράς αναζητά ρόλο στην ελληνική εξουσία.

Αναφορά στηνδημιουργία του ΔΗΚΚΙ από τον Δ. Τσοβόλα, στις θέσεις Μ.Εβερτ.

“Ο ξύλινος και απόμακρος λόγος του πρωθυπουργού Κ. Σημίτη συντείνει στην διάβρωση της υποστήριξής του.”

επισημαίνει ο αρθρογράφος και καταλήγει ότι αν ξαναεκλέγει ο κ. Σημίτης θα πρέπει να συνεργασθεί με τον κ. Τσοβόλα ο οποίος ζητά ριζικές οικονομικές αλλαγές. Αυτό σήμανε κατευθείαν εντολή για σκληρά κερδισμένη προσχώρηση της Ελλάδας στην Συνθήκη του Μάαστριχτ.