EUK

Greece Drops Objection To EU Aid for Turkey

By Tom Buerkle International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Signaling a potential breakthrough in the tense political standoff between Athens and Ankara, Greece on Monday said it would stop blocking the release of billions of dollars of European Union aid to Turkey and 11 other Mediterranean countries.

The decision, announced by Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos at a meeting of EU foreign ministers here, followed months of strong diplomatic pressure from Greece's EU partners, who regard the 3.4 billion Ecu (\$4.9 billion) aid package as vital to stabilizing the bloc's southern and eastern Mediterranean neighbors.

The Greek move came after EU ministers endorsed a declaration calling on Turkey to pursue "good-neighborly relations" and to submit territorial disputes with Greece to arbitration by the International Court of Justice. Greece and Turkey, both NATO allies, went to the brink of confrontation in January after Turkish sailors planted their country's flag on the disputed Aegean island of Imia.

Foreign Minister Dick Spring of Ireland, who brokered the agreement as holder of the Union's rotating presidency, called it a "very positive development." Hans van den Broek, the EU commissioner for external relations, said, "We hope very much that this procedure can at least help develop a dialogue with Turkey that will give some relief to tension" between Athens and Ankara.

Mr. Pangalos insisted that Turkey would have to agree to the EU conditions for aid to flow.

Mr. Spring and Mr. van den Broek planned to meet with the Turkish foreign minister, Tansu Ciller, in Dublin on Wednesday.

"We have to have a response, and this response has to be positive," Mr. Pangalos said.

Mr. Pangalos refused to drop a separate Greek veto over other EU plans to extend 375 million Ecus of aid to Turkey to help the country face up to EU competition as tariffs are phased out under a customs union signed last year.

That position could force Ankara to balk at accepting any deal that did no guarantee access to those funds.

Still, EU officials said Monday's agreement was significant because the aid package was a vital element of the Union's plan to develop closer ties with its southern and eastern Mediterranean neighbors, leading to a pan-Mediter ranean free-trade area around the yea 2010.

3

International derald Tribune 16.7.96 A Effaida openhage' ens averpenísers pa zyv Espugaijen Boy'dera ozyv Torpuia. Aavorras Era avogacierons by/ha eris 6 gébers rus pe en lovefie y Effaile eige o'a & apri ja chuov'si- fo an- Eupuquity Bon'dere ezy, Toup!'- t' affer 1! Mesoframes guipes y egoia arépteren se Sisepayorff i pie Sofféleir. A and yacy avanor wange and for TITE O. Achago 627 surdreg og Jar YMEZ us E. E perd ago ofgacy Sicopula-· zikn' Millen 270' Jon «Jaipon Jpo un effeto, 0, 000107 opochgegon 670 geniggo bog Feres tur 3,4816. Eur 620 woop & forge 6 jædepod zy zons 6700 feitores rus Noiries & Angafipis Mesofein. A Eggnuety' mimon spor perje au avancismon Jar VAEZ rus EE Mor pajor se ray Torpha "va ELON Stifes ogsøssers fagus fectriaogss, fiva pagagifes pars edagsnes diagopés tus fre tyr Effado org Liourgoio yor A.A.

Eggerda - Touppi- F' or 2 si fifagor you NATO égoacan for lanovapio esposores sippajns open louptor vaires éba fou 7 7 Especia Jous 670 090 Sieudinegon moi jor Appior Ifro, Opperais le fansies o ocorios Sia geroi -anne jo Défua can apoespei un aus E. E pignet pa nofi deriký efigin. Offans Vous Den Brock o Egirpos fra us ejwy. ogébers eige: "Efioi Jorfe o'a wing Siads posie pagopei a boy dajber 670 Siafofo perafi for vas ji Apupas 00. Toprofos egéptent ou plovarie géneral sa support 1 6700 épous rus E.E. • Or m. u Spring & Van den Brock Da suraveysour zou Tepicty soo Aorthon Ty es Chiller. Que Majnafos eige "spiges va ézorte pra avaryon j' avri a cine dere pis, j' demonde va aper to veto tus Effailing pe boydena 375 et Eeus gpor run Torpruia 672 gouisia cus l'éfurtiapis trions. Avin n Dies De proposise va nover un Aferfor ra fragmisser uder 60 figuna mor Ser

zus egagafi Jer augi 72 vege four. Tétor or « findhagand son uns E. E Duippon Livy' en solugnin a en Acoppas son paratur 672 gander - un Sonfronplan uns Mart. 60 feration Jums Equidiour sonffation from 670 2010.