

ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗΣ & ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΗΣΗΣ

ΑΥΤΟΜΑΤΟΣ ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΗΤΗΣ



FAX

Ἀπόκομμα Ἐφημερίδος

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Ἡμερομηνία

Ministers ticked off

LIKE a headmaster addressing faculty at the start of a new term, Prime Minister Costas Simitis yesterday sought to rally his cabinet, emphasising that the ruling socialists' only foe was themselves.

He also called on ministers to tamp down on infighting and called for better coordination and closer inter-ministerial cooperation in implementing crucial policies.

Simitis, whose government is heading towards the midpoint of its four-year term, said the next year would be critical and that the municipal elections to be held in October 1998 would lay the ground for the socialists' re-election.

National elections are not due until 2000 but could be triggered earlier if parliament fails to elect a president when the Costis Stephanopoulos' term expires.

Reviewing foreign policy, Simitis said the rapprochement with Turkey formally sealed in the agreement reached on the



Reuter

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos (L) gestures during a news conference with Premier Costas Simitis in Athens yesterday

sidelines of the Nato summit in Madrid had been a challenge for both Nato allies but one to which Ankara had yet to respond positively.

He also said Greece must continue to act as a bridge between the Balkans and the European Union and Nato.

Briefing reporters on the cabinet meeting, government spokesman Dimitris Reppas de-

scribed it as a review of the government's first year in office and that he had stressed the "trierarchy of coordination, cooperation and solidarity" as the recipe for its continued success.

Socialist sources also said Simitis had told his cabinet that if the government fails it will only have itself to blame as the conservative opposition has failed to mount a credible and serious opposition.