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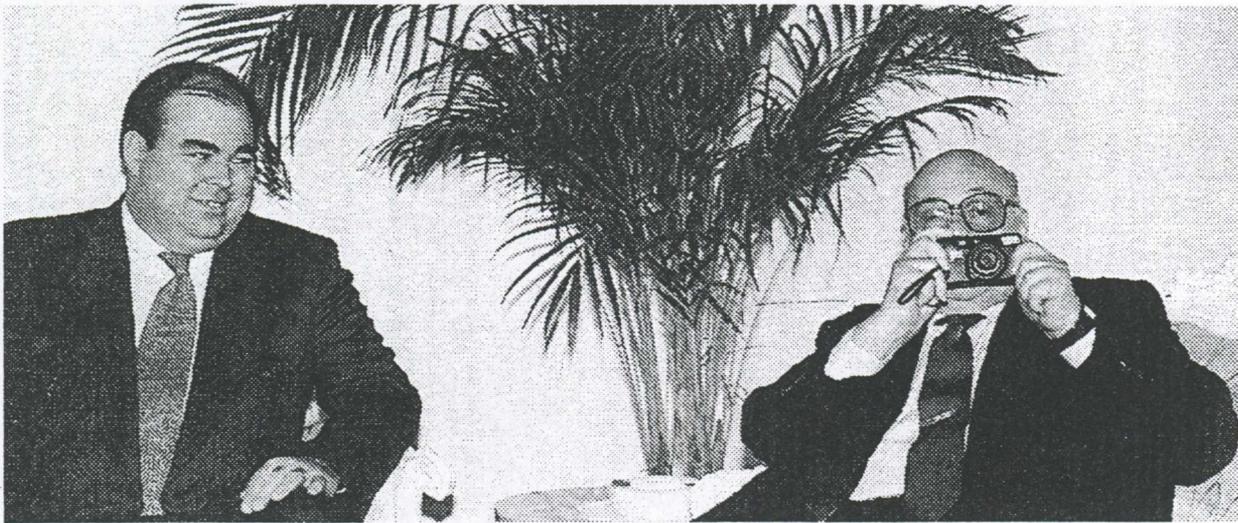
## Strikes in Greece On and Off

ATHENS (Reuters) — Ships remained in port Monday in Greece after seamen renewed for 48 hours their strike for better benefits.

In another labor dispute, garbage collectors in Athens suspended their walkout until Feb. 20 after extensive floods swept tons of garbage onto the city's streets.

Five persons have been killed and one is missing in the floods, which choked towns and villages with masses of muddy rubble after the waters receded Monday.

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Fatih Saribas/Reuters

A U.S. envoy, Carey Cavanaugh, watching Rauf Denktash take pictures of reporters Monday in Nicosia.

## Cyprus Crisis Defused, U.S. Aide Says

*Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches*

NICOSIA — A U.S. envoy said Monday that there was no crisis in Cyprus because its government had assured him that it would not bring any part of a new anti-aircraft missile system to the divided island for at least 16 months.

"I believe that should effectively defuse this as a crisis issue for Cyprus," the U.S. State Department official, Carey Cavanaugh, said after an hourlong meeting with President Glavkos Klerides on Monday morning.

Turkey, which has occupied the northern third of the island since 1974, threatened military action several times last week to stop the deployment of the S-300 missiles. The Cypriot government said it would acquire them from Russia.

Mr. Cavanaugh, director of the State Department's Southern European Affairs Department, made the comments before traveling north of the cease-fire line dividing the island for talks with Rauf Denktash, the leader of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic.

Mr. Cavanaugh also reiterated U.S. warnings against

Turkey. Ankara had threatened to take both political and military action if the anti-aircraft missiles, capable of striking targets in Turkish air space, were deployed.

"We find intolerable any military response to that decision," Mr. Cavanaugh said, adding that he would lay out proposals for a peaceful resolution to the island's division.

The Cypriot government spokesman, Yiannakis Cas-soulides, said his country was expecting progress in the peace talks over the next 16 months, adding that Mr. Klerides had reversed a previous decision and agreed to study a U.S. proposal banning military flights over the island. (Reuters, AFP)

### ■ Earthquake Shakes Buildings on Cyprus

Geologists said that an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale hit Cyprus at noon Monday, shaking tall buildings, Reuters reported. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the quake, which was felt as far away as Tel Aviv on the Israeli coast.