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Athens to Send Suspect to Berlin

ATHENS — Greece plans to extradite a German woman in connection with a 1986 disco bombing in West Berlin that killed three people and wounded 200, mostly U.S. military personnel, Justice Ministry officials said Wednesday.

The woman, 31-year-old Andrea Hausler, was arrested in October in Halkidiki near the northern port city of Salonika at the request of German authorities. (*Reuters*)

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Are the Turks Turning Their Backs on West?

Ankara Is Frustrated by EU and Greece

By Nicholas Doughty

Reuters

LONDON — Europe and Washington are increasingly worried by signs that Turkey, a vital strategic partner, may be turning away from the West — at a time of growing Greek-Turkish tension over the European Union and the divided island of Cyprus.

Diplomats say a series of meetings will try to assess the risks of a new crisis in southern Europe and just how far

at The Hague would try to ensure that the United States was coordinating its efforts with Europe and continuing to back the UN proposals for Cyprus.

"There is some concern," one envoy said, "that the Americans might be preparing a Holbrooke-style offensive for Cyprus all on their own, and we think that would be counterproductive."

Another meeting, set for Jan. 29 in Rome, will address the broader question of how to handle Turkey.

Ankara has long wanted to join the Union but has received no firm promises, while a string of other countries from the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe have now officially joined the line for membership.

In addition, the Islamic government of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has made efforts in recent months to improve ties with Iran and other Muslim countries. Last weekend, he sponsored a meeting of ministers from eight Muslim countries, aimed at bolstering economic cooperation among them.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Turkey, frustrated by its relations with the Union, is prepared to change course.

A decision by Greek-ruled Cyprus to buy Russian anti-aircraft missiles has raised the temperature at the worst possible time, as the West pushes for a breakthrough on a United Nations peace plan for the island.

But Turkey, whose troops occupy the northern part of Cyprus, is already bitterly disappointed at the lack of progress in its relations with the 15-nation EU.

Ankara blames Greece for blocking promised EU economic help, although the Union is also concerned about Turkey's record on human rights. Greece can block the aid because it is a member of the EU, while Turkey is not. Both countries are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel of Germany said Tuesday that Turkey was turning toward closer ties with its Muslim neighbors.

"Turkey feels that it is wrongly treated by Europe," he said. "How can one hold this against Turkey? Ankara has not profited by one penny from the customs union with the EU because Greece puts the brakes on everything."

Some diplomats say Turkey — an important ally for the West because it borders volatile regions of the Caucasus and the Middle East — might block NATO decisions in retaliation, including the alliance's planned expansion into Eastern Europe.

"There has been talk of the Turks taking a really hard line because of what has happened," a European diplomat said. "The warnings have been there before but there may be reason to take it more seriously now."

The two NATO allies have gone to the brink of war several times, most recently last year in a territorial dispute in the Aegean Sea. Four people also died in a series of clashes between the divided communities on Cyprus last year.

The island has been divided since 1974, when Turkey invaded and occupied its northern third after a coup engineered by the military government that ruled Greece at the time.

Washington and its allies have criticized Cyprus for the planned missile purchase, which they see as a threat to the peace hopes.

The United States announced Tuesday that it would send a senior official to the island this weekend, after U.S. officials meet their European counterparts in The Hague on Friday.

There is much sensitivity over how to tackle the problems between Greece and Turkey, partly because Richard Holbrooke — the U.S. official who negotiated the peace deal for Bosnia-Herzegovina — accused the Europeans last year of failing to deal with them.

European diplomats said the meeting