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Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew warmly received by Capitol Hill leadership, as Apostolic tour of US continues



The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, on Wednesday continued his wide-ranging Apostolic visit to the United States.

After being received on Tuesday at the White House Oval Office by US President Joe Biden, and at the State Department by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the Primate of the Mother Church of Constantinople continued his high-level meetings, arriving on Capitol Hill, where he was met by the Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi.





Also present at the meeting were the Elder Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon, and the Archbishop of America, His Eminence Elpidophoros.

During the meeting, His All-Holiness recalled the honor of receiving the Congressional Gold Medal during his first official visit to the United States in 1997, adding how proud he is to now share this honor with the honorable US Capitol

Police and those who protected the Capitol last January.

The Ecumenical Patriarch also expressed appreciation to President Biden and Speaker Pelosi for America's ongoing commitment to religious liberty, and freedom of conscience around the world.

He further discussed with Pelosi the urgent need of supporting developing nations in securing vaccines for their populations.

After the meeting, the House Speaker hosted a luncheon in the Rayburn Room, attended by a bipartisan group of members of Congress, where US Senator Chuck Schumer delivered remarks on the Apostolic Visit of His All-Holiness.

Earlier in the day, the Ecumenical Patriarch, Archbishop Elpidophoros, and the members of the Patriarchal delegation attended a reception at the United Methodist Building, hosted by the National Council of Churches in honor of the Apostolic Visit.

The Ecumenical Patriarch also spoke with US Senator Bob Menendez, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Taking to his official Twitter account afterwards, the influential US Senator from New Jersey noted that "…Honored to join my colleagues in welcoming His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch, to the US Capitol. Grateful to share our admiration for his commitment to peace and cooperation, and inspired by his global leadership in combatting climate change and advocacy for interfaith dialogue."

Later in the evening, His All-Holiness attended a reception for Orthodox Young Professionals, hosted by Former White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus.

The visit continued on Wednesday with stops in Weirton, WV and South Bend, IN.