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Archbishop of America receives visiting Greek DM; comments on Hagia Sophia



The Archbishop of America, His Eminence Demetrios, on Thursday received visiting Greek Defense Minister Evangelos Apostolakis at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's seat in New York City.

The meeting was described as a courtesy visit.

Nevertheless, the Greek minister briefed His Eminence over the latest developments in the eastern Mediterranean and Greece's role, while also touching on what he called continuing Turkish provocations, and the manner in which Athens deals with them.

Asked afterwards by reporters over the recent inflammatory statements by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, favoring the conversion of the Hagia Sophia into a Muslim mosque, His Eminence Demetrios merely reminded that, based on international treaties, Hagia Sophia is an internationally recognized cultural monument.

“That means that it cannot revert to a place of worship,” as he said.