

Ecumenical Patriarch in Athens on Wed.



The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, will arrive in Athens on Wednesday to attend the inauguration of an elderly care unit and geriatric research center in the coastal township of Dilesi.

The Patriarch's arrival will include a closely watched meeting with Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, as both hierarchs will attend the ceremony.

Reports of "frigid relations" between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of Greece have surfaced over the recent period.

However, the fact that Archbishop Ieronymos dispatched a Church of Greece bishop to personally deliver the invitation to His All Holiness, on the one hand, and the acceptance by the latter to attend, have raised expectations that any past misunderstandings and differences will be ameliorated.

In a letter sent by the Ecumenical Patriarch to the Church of Greece Primate, the former refers to "...an opportunity for a rekindling of relations and a discussion of issues of mutual interest for the common good".

In a related and also closely watched development, briefings on the contentious issue of granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of the Ukraine will be submitted to members of the Church of Greece's Holy Synod on

Wednesday.

The Ukrainian Church was granted Autocephaly by the Ecumenical Patriarchate late last year.